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Davidson

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(54) **SELECTIVE REPORTING OF TOUCH DATA**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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G06F 3/041 (2006.01)

G06F 3/038 (2013.01)

G06F 3/0488 (2013.01)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **G06F 3/041** (2013.01); **G06F 3/038** (2013.01); **G06F 3/0416** (2013.01); **G06F 3/04883** (2013.01); **G06F 9/4443** (2013.01); **G06F 2203/04808** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

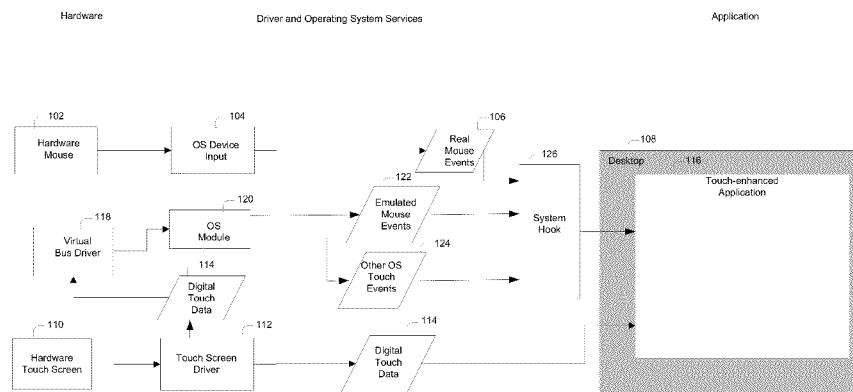
None

See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A graphical user interface is rendered on a display screen of a touch screen device. The display screen includes a display area for rendering images, and the graphical user interface of the application is rendered in a portion of the display area. Digital touch data is generated in response to user interactions with a touch-sensitive surface of the touch screen device. The digital touch data into OS touch events and application touch events. The OS touch events, application touch events, and application location information are received at a system hook. The application location information identifies the portion of the display area of the touch screen device in which the graphical user interface of the application is rendered. The system hook filters the OS touch events and the application touch events based on the application location information and provides the filtered OS touch events and application touch events to the application.

24 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



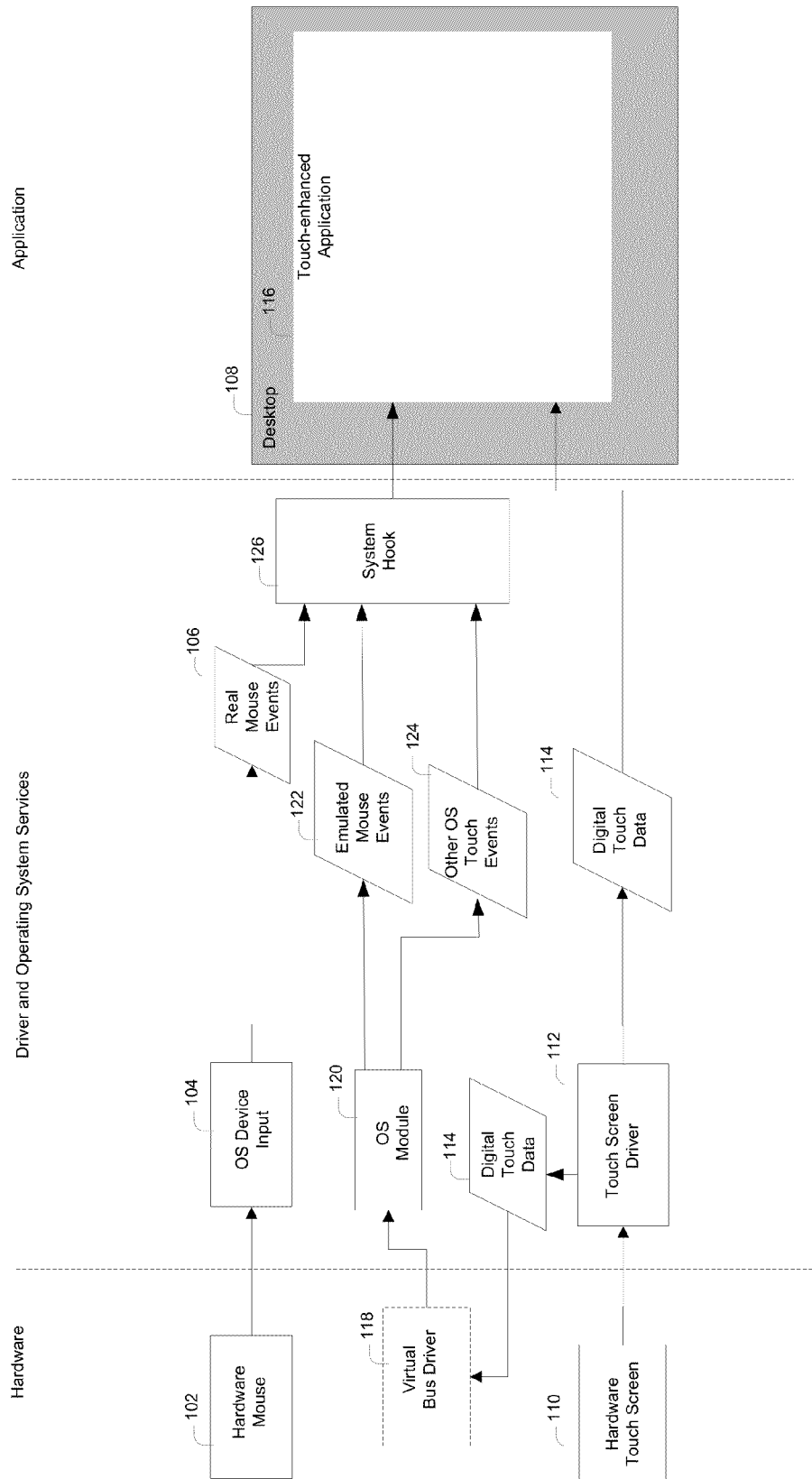


FIG. 1

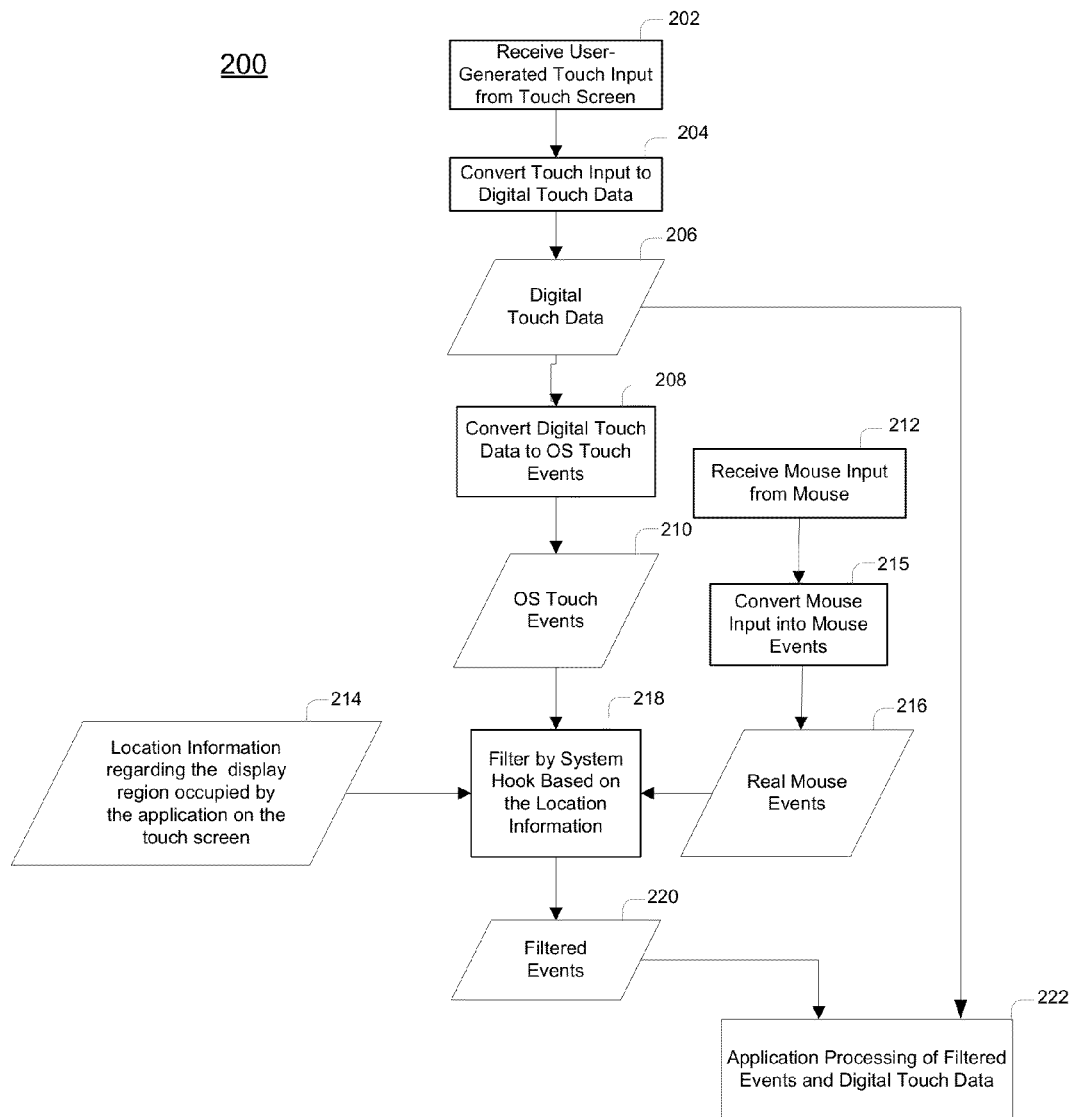


Fig. 2

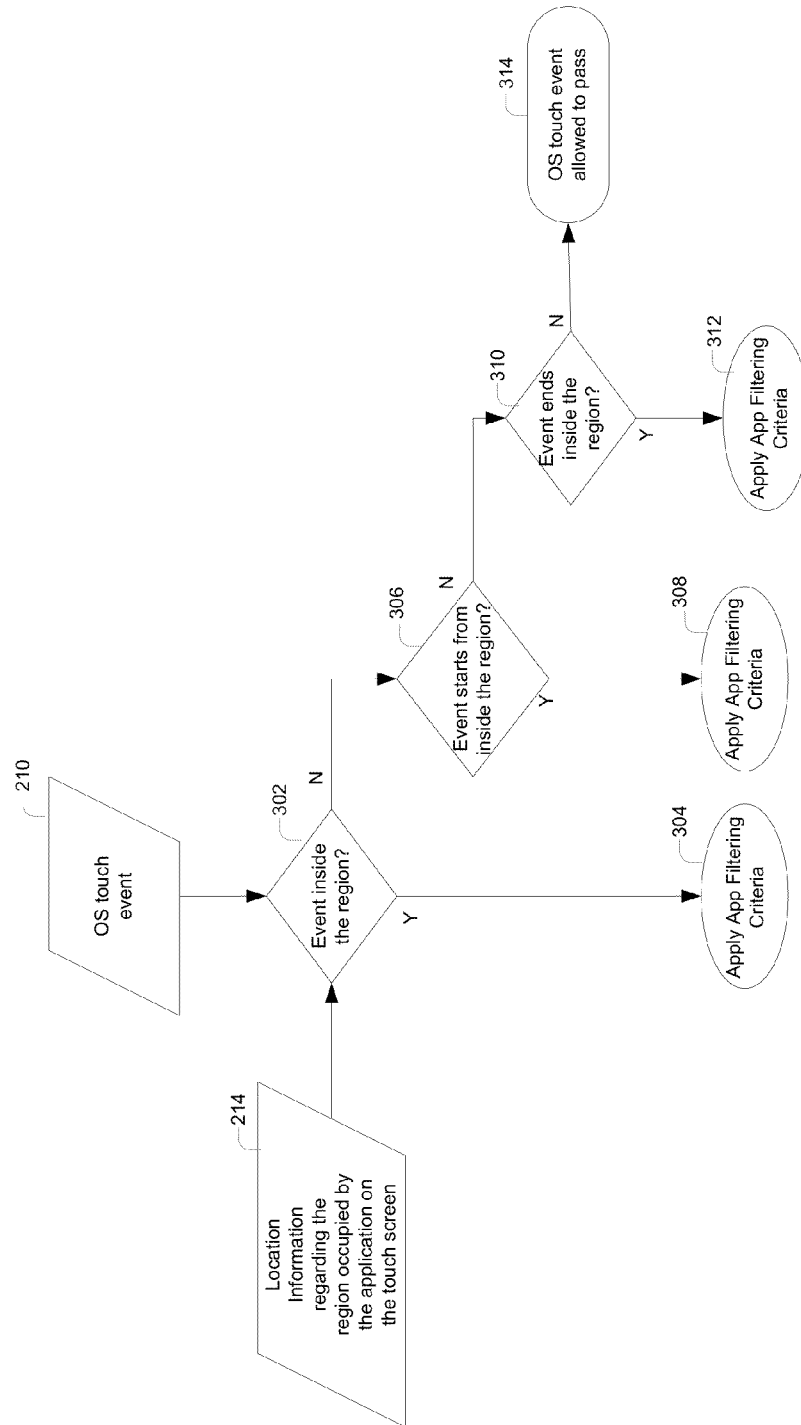
300

FIG. 3

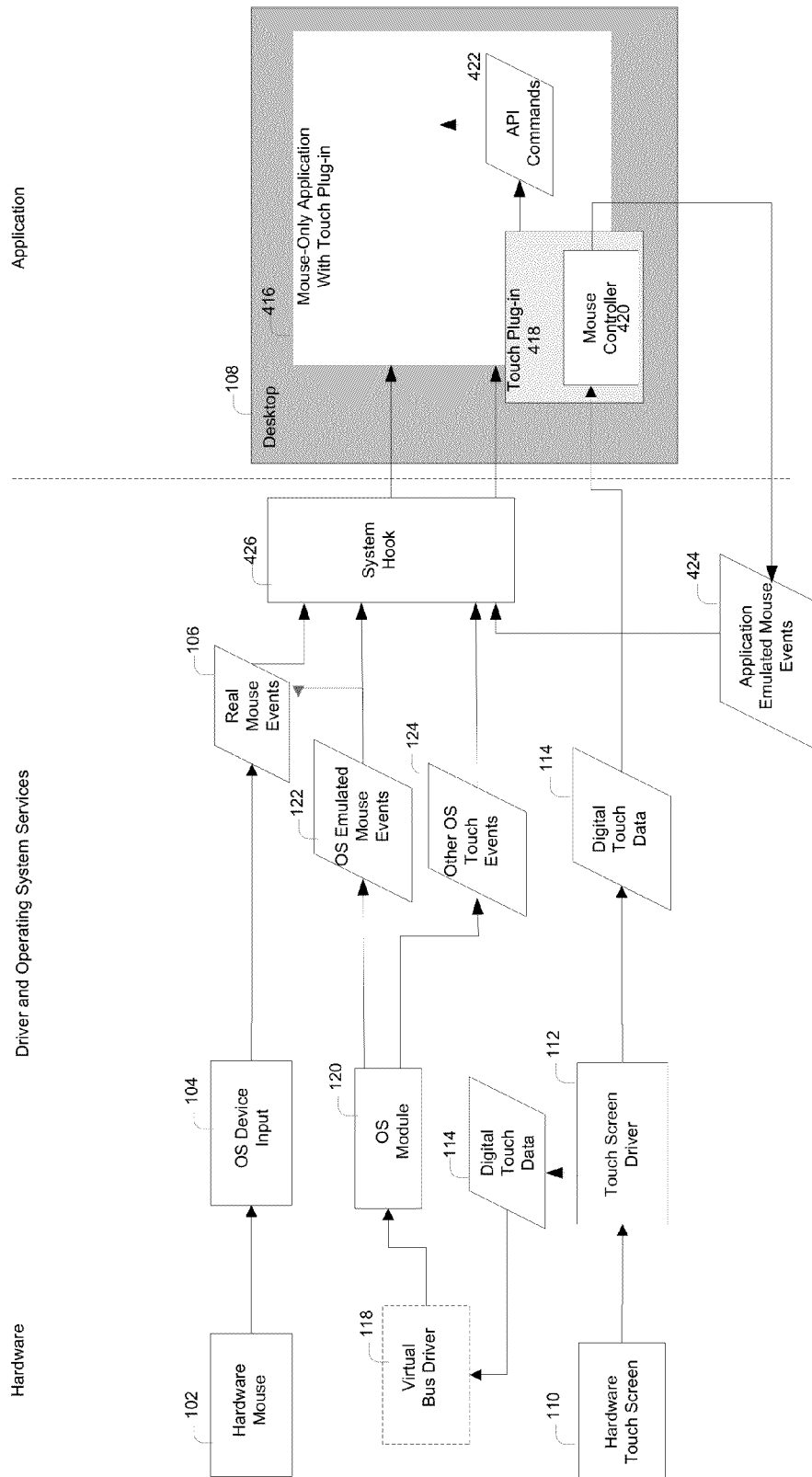


FIG. 4

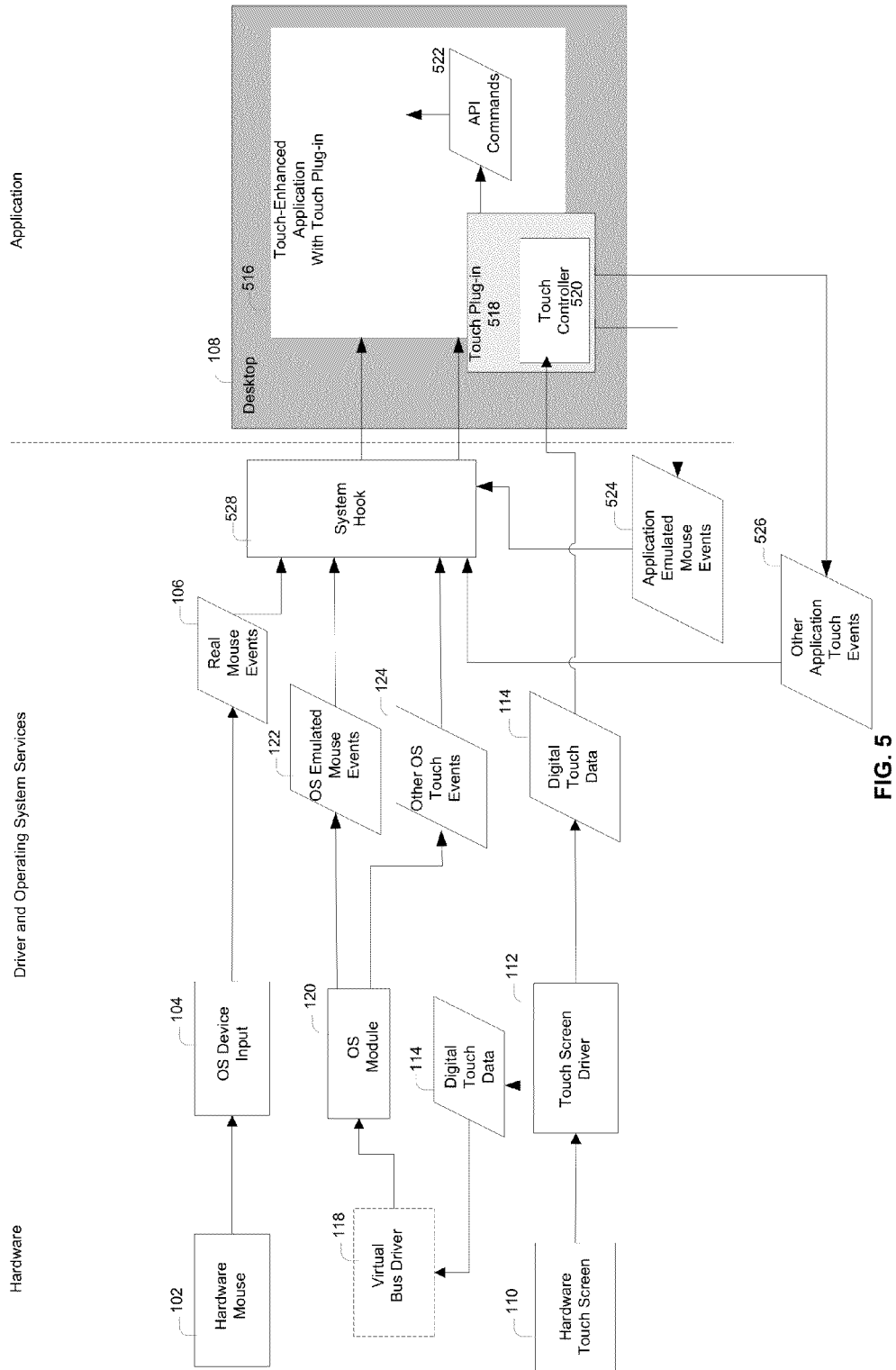


FIG. 5

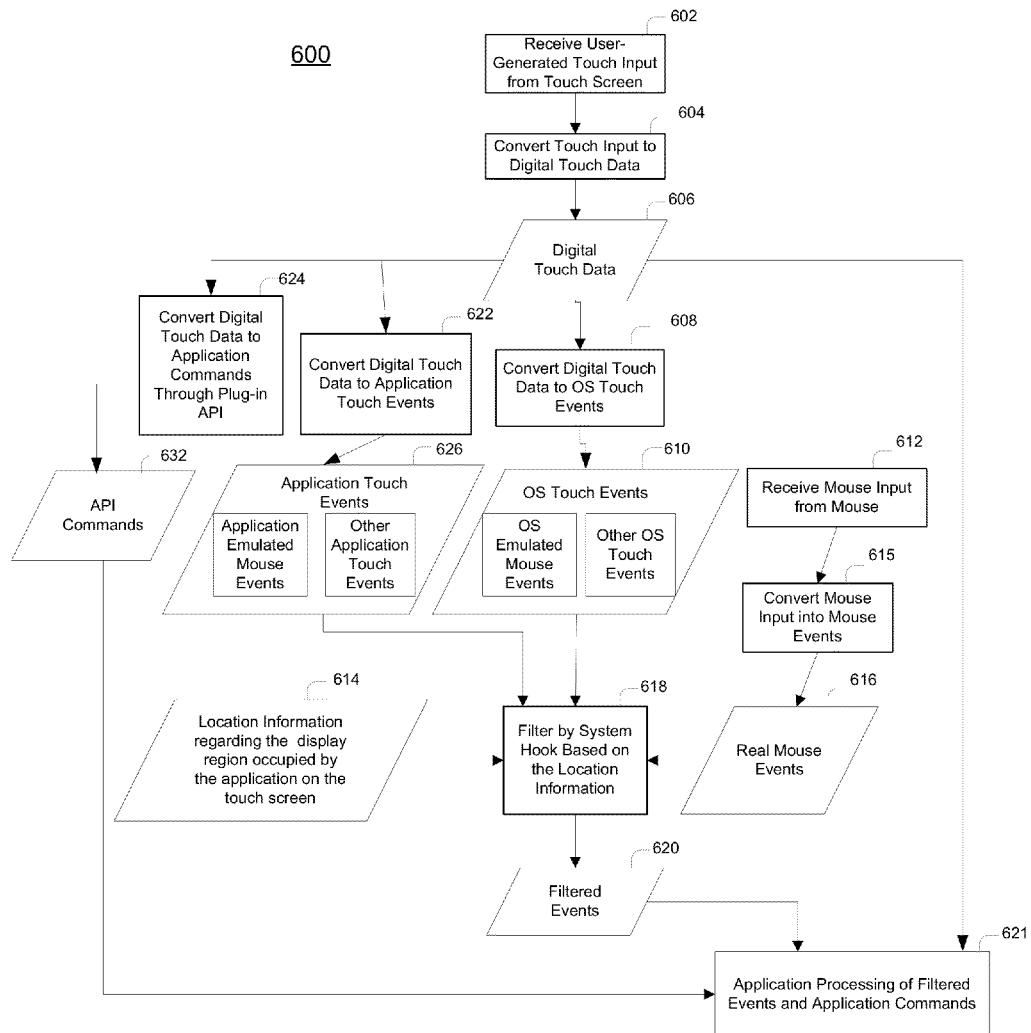


Fig. 6

700

702

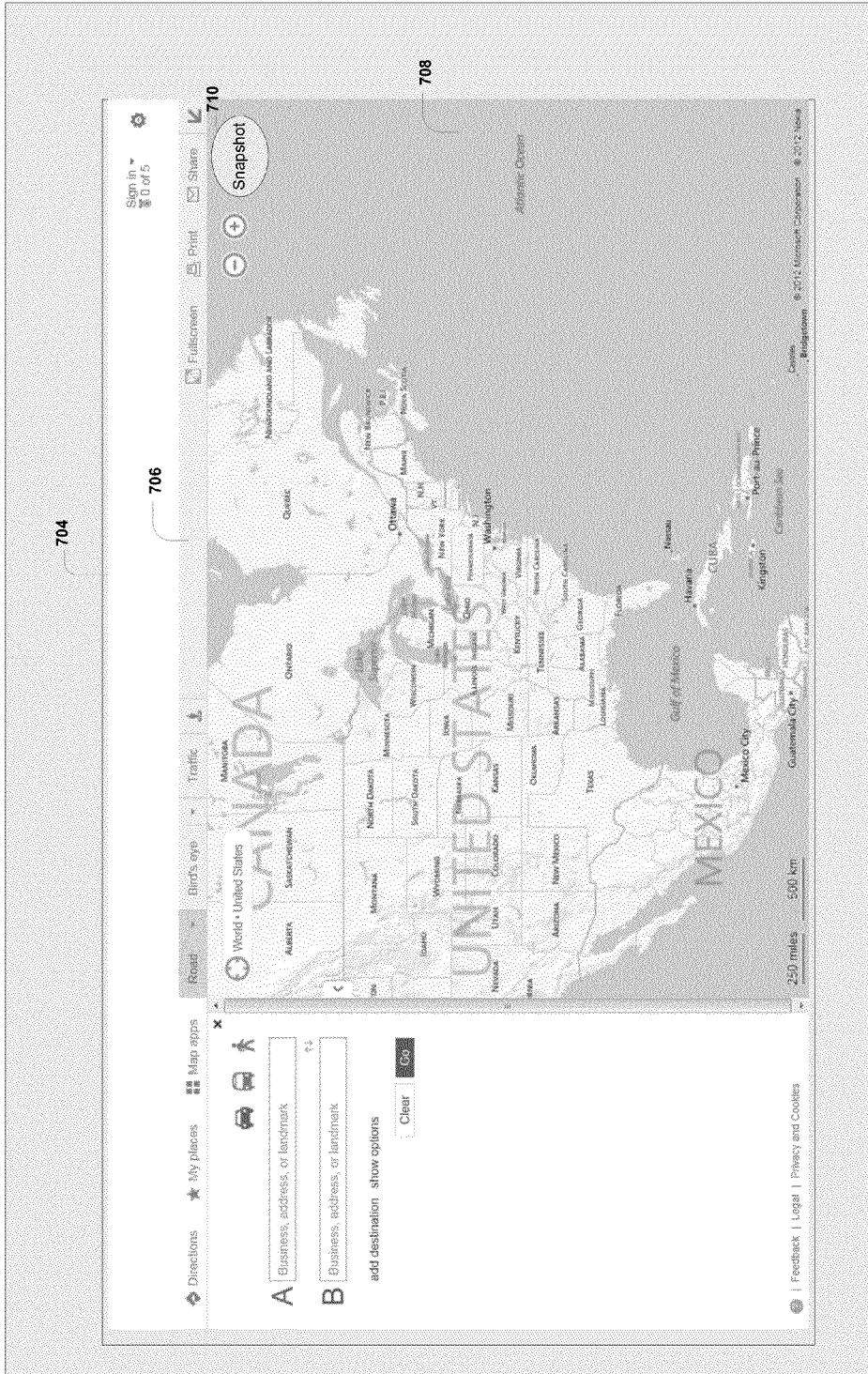


Fig. 7A

700

702

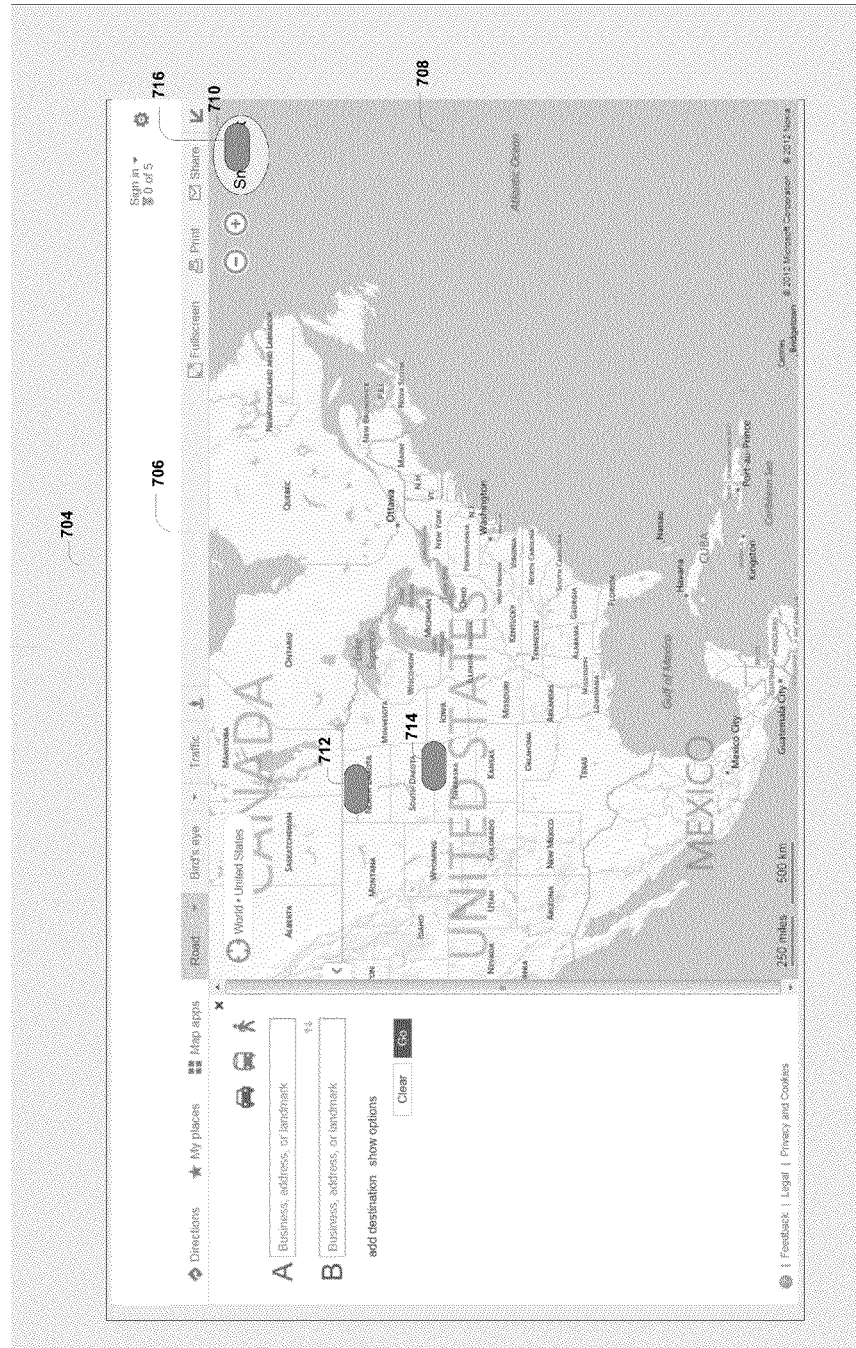


Fig. 7B

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SELECTIVE REPORTING OF TOUCH DATA**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/654,108 entitled "Selective Reporting of Touch Data" and filed on Oct. 17, 2012, the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The following disclosure relates generally to touch screen devices.

BACKGROUND

A touch screen device may be configured to provide a two-dimensional graphical display area that includes one or more areas dedicated to a particular application. The touch screen device may include a touch-sensitive surface that enables the touch screen device to detect the presence and location of touches by a user on the surface of the two-dimensional graphical display area. The touch screen device may be a multi-touch device configured to concurrently detect and respond to multiple different touches.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by an exemplary touch screen device that receives user input from a hardware mouse and also from a touch screen, processes the received user input to generate mouse events and OS touch events, and then selectively filters the mouse events and the OS touch events using a system hook.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart of an exemplary process for application-specific filtering of OS touch events on a touch screen device using a system hook.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of an exemplary process implemented by a system hook to assign an OS touch event to an application based on application location information.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by an exemplary touch screen device for reporting of events to a mouse-only application with a touch plug-in.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by an exemplary touch screen device for reporting of events to a touch-enhanced application with a touch plug-in.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of an exemplary process for application-specific filtering of OS touch events and application touch events on a touch screen device using a system hook.

FIGS. 7A and 7B illustrate a graphical user interface of an exemplary touch screen device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Techniques for selective filtering of data on a touch screen device are described. The touch screen device includes a touch screen, i.e., display screen having a touch-sensitive surface positioned over the display screen. The touch screen is configured to generate touch data in response to user interactions with the touch-sensitive surface. The touch data may indicate user-generated screen touch events, such as, for example, an event associated with one or more fingers or with one or more input mechanisms (e.g., one or more styluses)

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that provide input to the touch screen. For example, the event may include a tap, a double-tip, a flick, a slide, or a press-and-hold. The touch screen device may be a multi-touch device configured to receive and respond to multiple points of engagement (e.g., multiple points of direct physical contact) on the touch screen simultaneously.

In one implementation, a touch screen device is configured to enable a user to launch and interact with one application or with multiple applications concurrently. When a user interacts with the touch screen device to launch an application, the touch screen device may dedicate an area or region of its display screen to the launched application to enable the user to interact with that application. For example, the touch screen device may display a graphical desktop that covers substantially all of its display screen, and, in response to a user launching a particular application, may display a graphical window dedicated to that application on the graphical desktop. The user may interact with the application-specific graphical window to input data for processing by the corresponding application and to view data outputted by the corresponding application. The touch screen device may include a touch screen driver that is configured to receive user-generated screen touch events (e.g., a finger tap) from the touch screen of the touch screen device and convert the received screen touch events into digital touch data. The touch screen driver may then forward the digital touch data to a module of the operating system (OS) of the touch screen device. The OS module may generate OS touch events based on the digital touch data and may forward the OS touch events to a system hook. The system hook also may receive location information identifying the region of the display screen of the touch screen device occupied by the application (e.g., the area of the display screen in which the graphical window assigned to the application is rendered). Based on this location information, the system hook may filter out some or all of the OS touch events received from the OS module such that those OS touch events that are filtered out are not provided (i.e., reported) to the application for processing.

Using a system hook to selectively filter OS touch events generated from touch data by an OS module of a touch screen device may enable touch-enhanced applications to enjoy a greater flexibility in handling touch data than that provided by a typical OS, such as Windows 7, which fails to provide such a fine-grained control of digital touch data or OS touch events. A touch-enhanced application may be any one of: an application with code modifications to include the system hook (i.e., the selective filtering logic), an application without code modifications but with a plug-in or an extensible module to include the system hook, or an application without code modifications but with a secondary helper application or service that provides the system hook. For example, a system hook can be used to filter out all emulated mouse events generated by the OS module while still allowing other OS touch events generated by the OS module to be communicated to the application. Emulated mouse events are mouse events generated from touch data, rather than from interactions with a hardware mouse. Mouse events may include, for example, a double left mouse button click event, a single left mouse button click event, and a mouse move event. An emulated mouse event may be, for example, an emulated double left mouse button click event that is generated in response to a user double-tapping the touch-sensitive surface of the touch screen device with a finger. Other OS touch events that may be generated by the OS module based on received digital touch data include, for example, a one finger tap event, a two finger slide event, and a one finger slide event.

In some implementations, the system hook only filters out a predetermined subset of the OS touch events. For example, the system hook may filter out all emulated mouse events or, alternatively, may filter out only a predetermined subset of all emulated mouse events. In some implementations, the system hook may additionally or alternatively filter out all or a predetermined subset of the other OS touch events. In some implementations, the system hook may filter out all OS touch events (i.e., all emulated mouse events and all other OS touch events) produced by the OS module, while allowing only “real” mouse events (i.e., mouse events corresponding to user interaction with a hardware mouse rather than with a touch sensitive surface) to be reported to the application.

Since the system hook uses location information to distinguish between different applications concurrently displayed on the touch screen of the touch screen device, the system hook may be able to provide application-specific filtering where each particular application has its own filtering parameters and is able to selectively filter out its own specific set of OS touch events and/or digital data. In this manner, each application may be uniquely (or non-uniquely) associated with its own filter criteria and may be able to pass or suppress the reporting of any or all OS touch events (including emulated mouse events) produced by the OS module. This fine-grained application-specific control of the reporting of OS touch events enables applications to have much greater flexibility in how little or how much the application will leverage the touch data processing provided by the OS.

In some implementations, applications may be placed into two different categories, with a first of the two categories corresponding to ordinary applications that allow normal passage of all OS touch events (including emulated mouse events provided by the OS) without filtering and the second of the two categories corresponding to enhanced applications that filter out a predetermined amount of OS touch events (e.g., filter out all emulated mouse events provided by the OS) such that those OS touch events are not reported to the enhanced applications. Any given application that is launched may be designated as corresponding to one of the two categories and filtering (i.e., selective reporting) of OS touch events for that application may then proceed in accordance with the filtering criteria assigned to that particular designated category. In other implementations, more than two categories may be used for distinguishing applications for the purpose of selective reporting of OS touch events, with each of the categories having its own distinct filtering criteria.

The system hook may determine which application’s filtering criteria to apply to a given emulated mouse event or OS touch event by identifying the starting position and/or the ending position of the user-generated touch corresponding to the emulated mouse event or OS touch event. For example, if the starting position is inside the region of the touch screen occupied by a particular application (i.e., the region of the touch screen where the particular application’s graphical user interface is rendered), the system hook may choose to apply that application’s filtering criteria to the digital event, regardless of the ending position of the user-generated touch. Additionally or alternatively, if the starting position is outside the region of the touch screen occupied by the particular application and the ending position is inside the region, then the system hook may choose not to apply that application’s filtering criteria to the digital event.

In some implementations, the touch screen driver may convert user-generated touch events from multiple users simultaneously touching the touch screen device. The touch screen driver may forward the digital touch data to the OS module through a virtual bus device. The virtual bus device

enables the OS module to treat the digital touch data as if the data came from a virtual device, such as a virtual USB device. The touch screen driver also may forward a copy of the digital touch data to the application launched on the touch screen device.

In some implementations, the application location information may include, for example, coordinate information associated with a window of the application, coordinate information associated with a window pane of the application, size information associated with a window of the application, and/or size information associated with a window pane of the application. The coordinate information may be, for example, at a pixel level corresponding to a display resolution of the display screen of the touch screen device. The location information may be dynamically generated in response to the application be launched on the touch screen device and/or may be dynamically updated as the region occupied by the application on the display screen of the touch screen device changes during operation of the application. In some implementations, each portion of a region associated with a given application (e.g., each pane of a window of the application) is assigned its own different system hook filtering criteria for filtering out OS touch events.

In some implementations, the operating system may be a version of the WINDOWS operating system, a version of the Mac operating system, a version of the Linux operating system, or other variants of the same.

FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by a touch screen device that receives user input from a hardware mouse and also from a touch screen, processes the received user input to generate mouse events and OS touch events, and then selectively filters the mouse events and the OS touch events using a system hook.

A hardware mouse 102 is configured to generate user input data in response to user interactions with the hardware mouse 102. The hardware mouse 102 may be a conventional computer mouse that enables a user to move a graphical pointer rendered on a display screen of the touch screen device by moving the mouse and also enables the user to press one or more buttons on the mouse to trigger different interactions with an application. The user input data generated by the hardware mouse 102 may indicate user depression of one or more buttons on the mouse 102 and may be processed to determine the direction and speed of user motion of the mouse 102 on a surface. In some implementations, the hardware mouse 102 may have three buttons and the user input data generated by the mouse may include data that identifies one or more of the three buttons with which the user interacted and also the manner of user interaction with the button (e.g., clicked the button, double-clicked the button, pressed and held down the button, and/or depressed a button that was previously held down). In some implementations, the hardware mouse 102 may have more or less buttons than three and may additionally have a scroll wheel. In some implementations, a trackball controller, a touch pad, a joystick or other input mechanism that provides control of a graphical pointer in a manner akin to that provided by a mouse may be used in addition to or as an alternative to the hardware mouse 102, and may provide the same or similar user-generated input.

An OS device input 104 is configured to convert the received user-generated mouse input into real mouse events 106 (e.g., a double-click left mouse button event, a single-click right mouse button event, and/or motion of the mouse in a particular direction). The OS device input 104 may be a device driver or an I/O module of the OS of the touch screen device. The OS device input 104 may communicate with a teletypewriter (TTY) port of the touch screen device linked to

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the hardware mouse **102**. The OS device input **104** also may communicate with a universal serial bus (USB) port linked to the hardware mouse **102**. The linking may be a wired link or a wireless link. In some implementations, the hardware mouse **102** is integral with the touch screen device such that the real mouse events **106** are received directly from the hardware mouse **102**, rather than via a port.

The real mouse events **106** are event data that may be processed to move a graphical pointer hovering over an application displayed on a graphical desktop **108** that is displayed on a display screen of the touch screen device. The real mouse events **106** also may trigger interactions with an application (e.g., item selection interactions or menu invocation interactions).

A hardware touch screen **110** receives user-generated touch input on its touch-sensing surface and produces corresponding touch data that is communicated to the touch screen device. The user may provide the touch input by engaging the touch screen **110** using one or more input mechanisms, such as, for example, one or more fingers or styluses. The user may engage the touch screen **110** by, for example, directly physically contacting the touch screen **110** with the one or more input mechanisms or, additionally or alternatively, hovering the one or more input mechanisms in close physical proximity to the surface of the touch screen **110** such that the touch screen **110** is able to sense the touch, despite the lack of direct physical contact.

The touch input may indicate both a screen location where each of one or more input mechanisms initiated engagement (e.g., direct physical contact) with the touch screen **110** and a corresponding motion over time for each of the one or more input mechanisms while remaining engaged with the touch screen **110**. The touch input may indicate, for example, a tapping motion at the point where engagement was initiated on the touch-sensing surface, a sliding motion on the touch-sensing surface, a pinch or a zoom motion of two points of engagement on the touch-sensing surface, and a motion involving more than two points of engagement on the touch-sensing surface. In some implementations, the touch screen **110** may generate touch input from more than one user simultaneously engaging the touch-sensing surface of the touch screen **110**. In some implementations, the touch input may include user identification data that identifies which user provided each user-specific touch input.

The hardware touch screen **110** may utilize any of a variety of touch-sensing technologies including, for example, a resistive touch-sensing technology, a surface acoustic wave touch-sensing technology, a capacitive touch-sensing technology, and an infrared touch-sensing technology. In some implementations, the touch screen **110** may include a capacitive touch sensor having circuitry to determine the locations of user inputs on a detection grid by detecting changes in conductor capacitances caused by the one or more input mechanisms used by the user to engage the detection grid. The detection grid may, for example, be a sensor matrix made up of a first group of conductors that are positioned substantially parallel to each other and a second group of conductors that are positioned substantially parallel to each other, where each of the conductors in the first array is positioned to intersect with every conductor in the second array and, vice versa, to thereby form a matrix. Each of the intersections between a conductor in the first array and a conductor in the second array may be a detection point of the grid where capacitances are measured.

The one or more user input mechanisms may, for example, be fingers or styluses and may engage the detection grid by directly physically contacting one or more of the conductors

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in the sensor matrix or by otherwise hovering in close physical proximity to the one or more conductors (e.g., within 10 mm from the surface of the one or more conductors) such that a detectable change in capacitance at the detection points of the grid occurs. For example, a user may engage the grid by positioning a finger in close physical proximity to the grid, thereby causing the capacitance at the detection points of the grid that are located near the user's finger to deviate from a baseline value by, for example, 10 femtofarads for the detection points located at the center of the user's finger and 1 femtofarad for the detection points located at the edge of the user's finger.

A touch screen driver **112** may communicate with any port of the touch screen device that receives data from the hardware touch screen **110**. The port may be a serial port, a USB port, a High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) port, etc. In some implementations, the touch screen device is a single integrated device and the touch screen driver **112** receives data directly from the hardware touch screen **110**, rather than via an external port.

The touch screen driver **112** is configured to convert user-generated touch input into digital touch data **114**. The digital touch data **114** may include information encoding the type of user-generated touch input, for example, a one-finger input, a two-finger input, etc., and the location on the touch-sensing surface of the touch screen **110** corresponding to the user-generated touch input. The encoded location information may identify or be processed to identify the location where engagement was initiated by the user, such as, for example, the location where the user initially placed an input mechanism (e.g., a finger) onto the touch-sensing surface, a path on the touch screen traced by the user input mechanism as it remained engaged with the touch-sensing surface, and where engagement was terminated, such as, for example, where the user raised the input mechanism (e.g., the finger) from the touch-sensing surface. The precision of the information encoding the location on the touch-sensing surface may depend on the underlying sensing technology of the touch-sensing surface and/or the density of sensor distribution on the touch-sensing surface. The location information may be expressed, for example, using screen-space coordinates (e.g., pixel coordinates of a display or detection point coordinates of a detection grid).

The digital touch data **114** also may include location information identifying the screen area occupied by a touch-enhanced application **116**. The touch-enhanced application **116** is an application that receives and responds to touch data received from a user. The touch-enhanced application **116** is associated with particular filtering criteria used by a system hook to selectively suppress reporting of a predetermined set of OS touch events generated by an OS module based on the received touch data. FIG. 1 depicts an example of a touch-enhanced application **116** that has a graphical user interface corresponding to a rectangular region rendered within the rendered graphical desktop **108**. The rectangular region may, for example, be the area of a displayed window.

The touch-enhanced application **116** may be an application program on any operating system, such as, for example, Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Unix, etc. The application program may be compiled for any processor architectures such as, for example, a 32-bit architecture, a 64-bit architecture, etc. The application program also may run on a Java Virtual Machine (JVM). The application may be written in any programming language, such as, for example, C++, Java, Python, Tcl/Tk, etc.

The touch screen driver **112** may obtain the location information for the touch-enhanced application **116** from the

application itself and/or from the OS. The location information may include, for example, the screen coordinates (e.g., pixel coordinates) of the four corners of a window of the touch-enhanced application 116 displayed on the desktop 108 or, additionally or alternatively, a designated corner coordinate and a size of the window (e.g., a bottom left corner of the window is positioned at coordinate 212, 500, with the window having a 400 pixels by 400 pixels size). The location information also may include, for example, the screen coordinates of the four corners of all pop-up windows of the touch-enhanced application 116 or, additionally or alternatively, a designated corner coordinate and a size for each pop-up window.

The touch screen driver 112 is configured to send the digital touch data 114 to a virtual bus driver 118 and to the touch-enhanced application 116. The virtual bus driver 118 is configured to forward the digital touch data 114 to an OS module 120 in a manner that results in the OS module 120 treating the digital touch data 114 as if it were coming from a low-level hardware device, such as a universal serial bus (USB) device. The virtual bus driver 118 may, for example, be a virtual USB driver. The virtual bus driver 118 also may be a driver that uses a different data communications standard, such as, for example, a small computer system interface (SCSI) standard.

The OS module 120 is configured to receive digital touch data 114 from the virtual bus driver 118 and generate OS touch events based on the digital touch data 114. The OS touch events may include emulated mouse events 122 and other OS touch events 124.

In generating emulated mouse events 122, the OS module 120 may convert one particular type of digital touch data 114 into a given type of mouse event. For example, the OS module 120 may convert digital touch data indicating a one-finger tap motion by a user on the touch screen 110 into an emulated mouse event of a left-button single click. The OS module 120 may convert digital touch data indicating a one-finger lift motion by a user on the touch-sensing surface into an emulated mouse event of a left-button lift. The OS module 120 may additionally convert a two-finger press-and-hold motion by a user on the touch screen 110 into an emulated middle-button press event or a middle-scroll press event. The OS module 120 further may convert a one-finger press-and-slide motion by a user on the touch screen 110 into an emulated mouse sliding event. The OS module 120 also may convert some digital touch data 114 into a default emulated mouse event, such as, for example, an emulated mouse motion event. For example, the default emulated mouse event may be a right-button press event. The OS module 120 may choose to ignore some digital touch data 114 received. For example, the OS module 120 may disregard digital touch data 114 if the digital data 114 does not correspond to: a one-finger tap motion by a user on the touch-sensing surface, a one-finger lift motion by a user on the touch-sensing surface, a one-finger press-and-slide motion by a user on the touch-sensing surface, or a two-finger press-and-hold motion by a user on the touch-sensing surface.

In some implementations, the touch-enhanced application 116 is unable to distinguish between real mouse events 106 and emulated mouse events 122. That is, in these implementations, while the system hook 126 is able to distinguish emulated mouse events 122 from real mouse events 106 based on their different sources (and is thereby able to selectively filter them differently), the touch-enhanced application 116 is unable to make such distinction. Stated differently, the emulated mouse events 122 and the real mouse events 106 appear identical to the touch-enhanced application 116. For

example, an emulated right-button press mouse event generated from user-interactions with the touch screen 110 and a real right-button press mouse event generated from user-interactions with the hardware mouse 102 appear as the same identical right-button press mouse event to the touch-enhanced application 116, which has no ability to discern the source of the right-button press mouse event.

The OS module 120 may generate other OS touch events 124 that are distinct from the emulated mouse events 122. These other OS touch events may include, for example, a one finger tap event, a two-finger pinch event, or a one finger slide event.

In generating the emulated mouse events 122 and the other OS touch events 124, the OS module 120 may additionally provide as part of or in connection with the generated OS touch event the corresponding location information regarding the location on the hardware touch screen 110 corresponding to the user-generated touch input (e.g., an estimate of the current location on the touch screen 110 that is being engaged by the user input mechanism). The location information may include, for example, the two-dimensional screen coordinates of the current point of contact of the input mechanism on the touch screen 110 (e.g., 500, 250, where the first number specifies a pixel row and the second number specifies a pixel column in the pixel matrix of the display screen of the touch screen device).

A system hook 126 is configured to receive real mouse events 106 from the OS device input 104, emulated mouse events 122 from the OS module 120, and other OS touch events 124 from the OS module 120. The system hook 126 also has access to location information regarding the area on the hardware touch screen 110 occupied by the touch-enhanced application 116. The system hook 126 may be realized as a subroutine installed by an application at a point in the message handling processing of the operating system running on the touch screen device. The subroutine may monitor or intercept message/event traffic in the operating system and process certain types of messages/events before they reach their target application (e.g., before they reach their target window procedure in a windows-based operating system). In some implementations, the system hook 126 may be implemented as a mechanism to intercept function calls. In one implementation, the interception may be realized by altering an import table of an application so that the application can dynamically load a handling subroutine to process digital events. In another implementation, a wrapper library may be altered to redirect a function call to dynamically load the handling subroutine to process digital events. The operating system of the touch screen device may, for example, be a version of the WINDOWS operating system, a version of the Mac operating system, a version of the Linux operating system, or other current or future operating systems.

The system hook 126 is configured to selectively filter out certain of the events it receives based on application location information. The events received by the system hook 126 may be associated with a particular application based on the location information included in or associated with the events and the application location information. When an event is assigned to a particular application (i.e., determined to be directed to that application based on location information), the system hook 126 may apply filtering criteria assigned to that application to determine whether to pass the event to the application for processing or, alternatively, suppress the event such that it is not reported to the application. In some implementations, the system hook 126 always passes real mouse events 106, irrespective of application location information.

In some implementations, each touch-enhanced application **116** has its own separate system hook **126** specific to that application that focuses on filtering out events deemed to be directed to that application based on the application location information and the event location information. In these implementations, each touch-enhanced application **116** may, for example, install its own system hook **126** automatically when it is launched to thereby enable the touch screen device to use that system hook **126** to filter operating system events in accordance with that application's specific filtering criteria. For example, if the filtering criteria for the touch-enhanced application **116** indicate that all OS touch events should be suppressed (i.e., not reported), the system hook **126** may install a system hook **126** that filters out (i.e., does not report) emulated mouse events **122** and other OS touch events **124** that are directed to the touch-enhanced application **116**. The system hook **126** may determine that an emulated mouse event **122** or other OS touch event **124** is directed to the touch-enhanced application **116** if, for example, the event is determined, based on its location information, to originate from within a screen area occupied by the touch-enhanced application **116**.

The touch-enhanced application **116** is configured to receive digital touch data **114** from the touch screen driver **112** and filtered events from the system hook **126**. The touch-enhanced application **116** may respond to user interactions with the touch screen **110** by processing the digital touch data **114** received from the touch screen driver **112**. The touch-enhanced application **116** also may respond to user interactions with the hardware mouse **102** and/or with the touch screen **110** by processing the filtered events.

Specifically, depending on the application's filtering criteria, the events that were not filtered out by the system hook **126** may include none, all or a subset of the real mouse events **106**, the emulated mouse events **122** and the other OS touch events **124**. For example, when the system hook **126** of the application does not filter out real mouse events **106**, the touch-enhanced application **116** may respond to user interactions with the hardware mouse **102** by receiving and responding to the corresponding real mouse events **106** generated by the OS device input **104**. Moreover, when the system hook **126** of the application is also configured to filter out the emulated mouse events **122**, the application may not respond to these events and, therefore, may not provide emulated mouse functionality (unless the application itself provides this functionality separately in its processing of the digital touch data **114**).

In another example, when the system hook **126** is configured to not filter out other OS touch events **124**, an OS touch event generated by the OS module **120** in response to a one-finger tap motion by a user on the touch screen **110** may be reported to the application **116** for processing. The application **116** may, in response to the event, cause a pointer to appear at the point of contact (or, more generally, the point of engagement) of the one-finger tap motion. In another example, an OS touch event generated by the OS module **120** in response to a two-finger pinch by a user on the touch screen **110** may be reported to the application **116** for processing. The application **116** may, in response to the event, cause a pop-up window to appear at the point of contact (or, more generally, point of engagement) on the hardware touch screen **110**. The touch-enhanced application **116** may obtain the location information associated with filtered events from the OS module **120** by using one or more Application Program Interfaces (APIs) to query, for example, the OS module **120**.

FIG. 2 is a flow chart of a process **200** for application-specific filtering of OS touch events on a touch screen device

using a system hook. For convenience, the process **200** shown in FIG. 2 references particular componentry described with respect to FIG. 1. However, similar methodologies may be applied in other implementations where different componentry is used to implement the process **200**, or where the functionality of process **200** is distributed differently among the components shown in FIG. 1.

User touch input generated in response to user interactions with a touch-sensing surface of the touch screen device is received (**202**). The touch-sensing surface may, for example, be the touch-sensing surface of the hardware touch screen **110**.

The user-generated touch input is converted into digital touch data **206** by a touch screen driver of the touch screen device (**204**). The touch screen driver may, for example, be the touch screen driver **112**. The digital touch data **206** may be provided to or otherwise accessed by an OS module and a touch-enhanced application for further processing.

The digital touch data **206** is converted into OS touch events **210** by an OS module (**208**). The OS module may be, for example, OS module **120**. The digital touch data **206** may be processed to generate, for example, emulated mouse events and other OS touch events. For example, the OS module **120** may cast some digital touch data **206** as an emulated left-mouse-down event, an emulated left-mouse-up event, an emulated right-mouse-down event, an emulated right-mouse-up event, an emulated mouse-scroll event, etc. The OS module **120** also may process digital touch data **206** to generate other OS touch events including, for example, gesture events such as tap, press and tap, two finger tap, pinch, expand (i.e., a spreading of fingers apart), etc.

OS touch events may be implemented as OS-specific messages. In some implementations, the OS-specific messages may include location information, for example, coordinate information, for the digital touch data **206**. The coordinate information may be matched to a current screen resolution on the hardware touch screen **110**. As described in more detail below, the coordinate information may be used by the system hook to filter OS touch events.

User mouse input generated in response to user interactions with a hardware mouse of the touch screen device is received (**212**). The hardware mouse may be, for example, the hardware mouse **102** and may be separate from but communicatively coupled to the touch screen device via an external port. Alternatively, the hardware mouse and the touch screen device may be a single integral device.

The user-generated mouse input is converted into real mouse events **216** (also referred to as **106**) by an OS device input (**215**). The OS device input may be, for example, the OS device input **104**.

The system hook filters the OS touch events and, optionally, the real mouse events based on application location information (**218**). The system hook may be, for example, the system hook **126**.

The system hook **126** may receive from the OS or from the touch-enhanced application **116** location information **214** specifying the region on the display screen of the touch screen device occupied by the application **116**. The region occupied by the application **116** may be, for example, a region of the display screen in which is rendered a window launched by the application **116** with which the user may interact to provide data to and/or receive data from the application **116**. The location information **214** may include coordinate information that specifies the location and the size of the display region occupied by the application **116**. As stated previously, the coordinate information may be in a two-dimensional format

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and may, for example, identify the coordinate of one or more corners of the region and may additionally specify the size of the region.

In some implementations, the application 116 may occupy multiple regions of the display screen such as, for example, multiple regions corresponding to multiple different simultaneously displayed windows launched by the application (or otherwise associated with the application) with which the user may interact to provide data to and/or receive data from the application 116. The system hook 126 may use the same filtering criteria for all regions of the application 116. Alternatively, the system hook 126 may use different filtering criteria for each of the multiple different regions of the application 116.

In some implementations, the location information 214 may additionally or alternatively include sub-region location information that identifies a specific portion of a region or regions occupied by an application. For example, the location information 214 may include coordinate information that defines the location and size of certain areas within a main application window, such as, for example, a ribbon window, a window pane or panel, a preview window, etc. The system hook 126 may use the filtering criteria for a given region for all of its sub-regions. Alternatively, the system hook 126 may use different filtering criteria for each sub-region. For example, the system hook 126 may filter out all OS emulated mouse events generated as a result of touch interactions within a window pane of a main application window that displays an interactive three-dimensional globe, while allowing all OS emulated mouse events generated as a result of touch interactions within a ribbon window within the main application window to pass to the application 116 for processing.

The system hook determines whether or not to filter a given OS touch event 210 based on the location information associated with the OS touch event 210, the location information associated with the application, and the application's filtering criteria. For example, if the location information associated with an OS touch event 210 and the application location information indicate a point of contact of the corresponding user-generated touch input within the region occupied by the application 116, then the system hook may apply that application's filter criteria to the OS touch event 116 to, for example, suppress the OS touch event 210, i.e., not report the event to the application 116 for processing. If the location information associated with an OS touch event 210 indicates more than one point of contact, then the system hook may apply the application's filter criteria to the OS touch event 210 only if all of the multiple points of contact are within the region occupied by the application or, alternatively, if at least one of the multiple points of contact is within the region occupied by the application. Notably, this same technique for determining which filter criteria should be applied to a given OS touch event 210 based on location can be applied to filter criteria that is specific to different regions or sub-regions occupied by a particular application.

As noted above, the system hook may optionally apply application-specific filter criteria that filters out real mouse events 106 as well as OS touch events 210. In some implementations, the system hook, however, does not enable applications to filter out real mouse events 106.

Filtered events 220 is the filtering result produced by the system hook. Since a touch screen device may display more than one application 116 concurrently, the filtered events 220 may include a different set of filtered events for each concurrently displayed application 116. The filtered events 220 also may include sets of events for particular regions and/or sub-

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regions of applications. As noted previously, in some implementations, each application 116 may have its own system hook that produces its own set of filtered events 220.

The application receives and processes the filtered events 220 and the digital touch data (222). In some implementations, the application may receive a different set of filtered events for each of multiple different regions (e.g., each of the application's different windows) occupied by the application and/or for each of multiple different sub-regions (e.g., window panes) occupied by the application. Each set of filtered events may trigger a separate and distinct process specific to that region (e.g., window) or sub-region (e.g., window pane).

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a process 300 implemented by a system hook to assign an OS event to an application based on application location information. For convenience, the process 300 shown in FIG. 3 references particular componentry described with respect to FIG. 1. However, similar methodologies may be applied in other implementations where different componentry is used to implement the process 300, or where the functionality of process 300 is distributed differently among the components shown in FIG. 1.

The system hook 126 receives OS touch events 210 from the OS module 120 and receives application location information 214 for the touch-enhanced application 116 from the OS of the touch screen device or from the application itself. The system hook 126 may determine whether the user-generated input that triggered an OS touch event 210 was inside a region occupied by the application (302). For example, if the OS touch event 210 is a single tap event, the system hook 126 may determine whether the screen coordinates indicating the location where the single tap event occurred on the touch screen 110 are within the range of coordinates corresponding to the region occupied by the touch-enhanced application 116. If the region, for example, is an area of an application window that is 400 pixels by 600 pixels in size having its left bottom corner positioned at the coordinates 40, 40, the system hook 126 may determine whether the single tap event occurred within the region of the application by determining whether the location of the single tap event has an x coordinate between 40 to 441 pixels and a y coordinate between 40 to 641 pixels.

In another example, if the OS touch event 210 is a one finger press-and-slide gesture, the system hook 126 may determine whether both the starting position and the ending position of the user-generated touch input are within the range of coordinates corresponding to the region occupied by the touch-enhanced application 116. In this example, if both the starting position and the ending position (and, in some implementations, all positions between the starting and ending positions) are within the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region, then the system hook 126 may conclude that the OS one finger press-and-slide gesture event is inside the application region.

If the system hook 126 concludes that the OS touch event 210 is inside the application region, the system hook 126 may apply the filtering criteria assigned to that application to the OS touch event 210 (304). As noted previously, if the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 is not reported to the touch-enhanced application 116. Conversely, if the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should not be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 passes through the system hook 126 and is reported to the touch-enhanced application 116, which may initiate processing in response to and based on the OS touch event 210.

If the system hook 126 concludes that the user-generated input that triggered the OS touch event 210 was not inside a

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region occupied by the application, the system hook 126 may determine whether the event started from inside the application region (306). The system hook 126 may determine whether the event started from inside the application region by comparing coordinates of the starting position of the event (i.e., the coordinates where the user initiated contact with the touch screen to generate the event) with the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region. For example, if the OS touch event 210 is a one finger press-and-slide gesture event, the system hook 126 may compare the coordinates corresponding to the screen location where the user's one finger initiated contact with the touch screen 110 with the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region.

If the screen coordinates where the event started fall within the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region, the system hook 126 may conclude that the event started from inside the region and, therefore, may apply the corresponding application's filtering criteria to the OS touch event 210 (308). If the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 is not reported to the touch-enhanced application 116. Conversely, if the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should not be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 passes through the system hook 126 and is reported to the touch-enhanced application 116, which may initiate processing in response to and based on the OS touch event 210.

If the system hook 126 concludes that the user-generated input that triggered the OS touch event 210 was not inside a region occupied by the application and did not start inside a region occupied by the application, the system hook 126 may determine whether the event ended within the application region (310). The system hook 126 may determine whether the event ended inside the application region by comparing the coordinates of the ending position of the event (i.e., the coordinates of the user contact with the touch screen at the end of the interaction that triggered the event) with the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region. For example, if the OS touch event 210 is a one finger press-and-slide gesture event, the system hook 126 may compare the coordinates corresponding to the screen location where the user's one finger finished its slide movement on the touch screen 110 with the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region.

If the screen coordinates where the event ended fall within the range of coordinates corresponding to the application region, the system hook 126 may conclude that the event ended inside the region and, therefore, may apply the corresponding application's filtering criteria to the OS touch event 210 (312). If the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 is not reported to the touch-enhanced application 116. Conversely, if the filtering criteria indicate that the particular OS touch event 210 should not be filtered out, the OS touch event 210 passes through the system hook 126 and is reported to the touch-enhanced application 116, which may initiate processing in response to and based on the OS touch event 210.

If the system hook 126 concludes that the user-generated input that triggered the OS touch event 210 was not inside a region occupied by the application, did not start inside a region occupied by the application, and did not end inside a region occupied by the application, the system hook 126 does not apply the application's filtering criteria to the OS touch event 210 and the OS touch event 210 is allowed to pass (314). In some implementations, allowing the OS touch event 210 to pass results in the OS touch event 210 being reported to the

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touch-enhanced application 116. In other implementations, allowing the OS touch event 210 to pass results in the OS touch event 210 not being reported to the touch-enhanced application.

In some implementations, each touch-enhanced application 116 has its own system hook 126 with its own filtering criteria and each system hook 126 independently monitors the OS touch events 210 to determine which OS touch events 210 should be reported or not reported to its corresponding touch-enhanced application 116.

In some implementations, the system hook 126 may perform operations 302 through 314 for an OS touch event 210 for a sub-region (e.g., a window pane) of the touch-enabled application 116, instead of or in addition to a region (e.g., a window). In some implementations, the system hook 126 may perform operations 302 through 312 for an OS touch event 210 once for each of multiple different regions (e.g., multiple different windows) and/or for each of multiple different sub-regions (e.g., multiple different window panes) of the touch-enabled application 116 before allowing the OS touch event 210 to pass through the system hook.

In some implementations, only a subset of operations 302 through 312 are performed for the application region, sub-region, regions, and/or sub-regions. For example, if operations 302 and 304 are performed but operations 306 through 312 are not performed, an OS touch event 210 may be designated for potential filtering by the touch-enhanced application 116 only if the OS touch event 210 is determined to be inside that application's display region, sub-region, regions, and/or sub-regions. In another example, if operations 302, 304, 310 and 312 are performed but operations 306 and 308 are not performed, an OS touch event 210 may be designated for potential filtering by the touch-enhanced application 116 only if the OS touch event 210 is determined to either be inside or to start outside but end inside that application's display region, sub-region, regions, and/or sub-regions. In yet another example, if operations 302, 304, 306 and 308 are performed but operations 310 and 312 are not performed, an OS touch event 210 may be designated for potential filtering by the touch-enhanced application 116 only if the OS touch event 210 is determined to either be inside or to start inside that application's display region, sub-region, regions, and/or sub-regions.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by an exemplary touch screen device that receives user input from a hardware mouse and also from a touch screen, processes the received user input to generate mouse events, OS touch events, and application touch events, and then selectively filters the mouse events, the OS touch events, and the application touch events using a system hook. FIG. 4 depicts an implementation of a system and data flow similar to that described above with respect to FIG. 1 with the exception that the touch-enhanced application 116 is identified as a mouse-only application with a touch plug-in 416 that is able to provide emulated mouse events to the application 416 via a system hook 426.

The system includes a hardware mouse 102 and an OS device input 104 configured to produce real mouse events 106 that are communicated to the system hook 426 for filtering. The system further includes a hardware touch screen 110 in communication with a touch screen driver 112 that is configured to convert user-generated touch input into digital touch data 114 and to send the digital touch data to a touch plug-in 418 of the application 416 and also to an OS module 120 via a virtual bus driver 118. The OS module 120 is configured to generate OS emulated mouse events 122 and/or other OS touch events 124 and to communicate these events 122 and/or

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124 to the system hook 426 for filtering. Implementation examples of each of the above-noted elements depicted in FIG. 4 have been described previously.

The application 416 is a mouse-only application that has been enhanced to handle touch through use of a touch plug-in 418. Specifically, the original (or underlying) mouse-only application (i.e., the application 416 without the touch plug-in 418) is an application configured to receive and respond to mouse events (i.e., events generated in response to user input provided through user-interaction with a mouse (e.g., mouse 102)) and not to touch events (i.e., touch-specific events generated in response to user input provided through user-interaction with a hardware touch screen (e.g., touch screen 110)). However, by adding the touch plug-in 418, the original mouse-only application has been enhanced to respond to user touch input through the operation of the touch plug-in 418. The mouse-only application with touch plug-in 416 is associated with particular filtering criteria used by the system hook 426 to selectively suppress reporting of a predetermined set of OS touch events generated by an OS module based on received touch data and/or a predetermined set of application emulated mouse events generated by the application 416. FIG. 4 depicts an example of an application 416 that has a graphical user interface corresponding to a rectangular region rendered within the rendered graphical desktop 108. The rectangular region may, for example, be the area of a displayed window.

In some implementations, touch plug-in 418 is a “helper application” that is an executable process separate from the underlying (or original) application’s executable process, and not a traditional plug-in that is loaded and integrated with the underlying (or original) application’s executable process at runtime. However, the “helper application” may still make use of the main application’s special APIs, such as, for example, via Component Object Model (COM).

The mouse-only application with touch plug-in 416 may be an application program on any operating system, such as, for example, Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Unix, etc. The application program may be compiled for any processor architectures such as, for example, a 32-bit architecture, a 64-bit architecture, etc. The application program also may run on a Java Virtual Machine (JVM). The application may be written in any programming language, such as, for example, C++, Java, Python, Tcl/Tk, etc.

As noted above, the application 416 includes the touch plug-in 418. The touch-plug-in 418 is software code that is configured to add specific abilities of handling touch data to the original mouse-only application. The touch plug-in 418 may convert digital touch data 114 into application program interface (API) commands 422 that are recognizable by the underlying mouse-only application and that instruct the underlying mouse-only application to execute corresponding operations.

The touch plug-in 418 may include a mouse controller 420. The mouse controller 420 is configured to generate application emulated mouse events 424 in response to digital touch data 114 and to communicate the emulated mouse events 424 to the original mouse-only application. In this implementation, the original mouse-only application is configured to receive mouse events only from the underlying operating system (OS). As such, the touch plug-in 418 is required to provide the application emulated mouse events 424 to the original mouse-only application as mouse events that are sent through the operating system channels (and the system hook 426) back to the original mouse-only application. Notably, and depending on the filter criteria associated with the application 416 implemented by the system hook 426, the original

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mouse-only application may receive real mouse events 106 generated by the hardware mouse 102, OS emulated mouse events 122 generated by the OS module 120 based on the digital touch data 114, and/or application emulated mouse events 424 generated by the touch plug-in 418 based on the digital touch data 114. The original mouse-only application is configured to execute operations in response to mouse events received from the OS and, notably, is typically unable to identify the source that generated the mouse events (i.e., it is typically unable to distinguish between mouse events generated by the mouse 102, mouse events generated by the OS module 120 and mouse events generated by the touch plug-in 418). In other implementations, the original mouse-only application is able to identify the source of mouse events and distinguish between the mouse events based on their source.

The touch plug-in 418 may provide location information of the mouse-only application (e.g., the location of the window corresponding to the mouse-only application) and/or location information for application emulated mouse events (e.g., the location where the application emulated left-button single click event took place) to the system hook 426. The touch plug-in 418 also may provide filtering criteria for the application 416 to the system hook 426.

The system hook 426 is an implementation example of the system hook 126 that is capable of additionally or alternatively receiving and processing application emulated mouse events 424. The system hook 426 is configured to receive real mouse events 106 from the OS device input 104, OS emulated mouse events 122 from the OS module 120, other OS touch events 124 from the OS module 120, and/or application emulated mouse events 424 from the touch plug-in 418. The system hook 426 may selectively suppress OS touch events (including OS emulated mouse events 122 and other OS touch events 124), real mouse events 106 and/or application emulated mouse events 424 to thereby prevent any, one, some or all of these events from being reported to the original mouse-only application.

In one implementation example, the system hook 426 receives mouse events from the OS device input 104, the OS module 120 and the touch plug-in 418 as data messages that include a flag or a code used to distinguish the different mouse events based on their source. For example, a real mouse event 122 may include a code of “000”, an OS emulated mouse event 122 may include a code “500”, and an application emulated mouse event may include a code “200.” The system hook 426 may use these codes identify the source of the mouse event and to selectively filter out mouse events based on the identified source. For example, if the filter criteria for the application 416 indicates that all OS emulated mouse events 122 should be filtered out (i.e., not reported to the application 416) the system hook 426 may prevent any mouse events received by the system hook 426 that include the code “500” from being reported to the application 416. The system hook 426 may perform this source filtering in conjunction with the event filtering operations as described previously for system hook 126 based on application location information and event location information.

FIG. 5 is another diagram illustrating the flow of data and the data processing performed by an exemplary touch screen device that is similar to that depicted in FIG. 4 with the exception that the mouse-only application with touch plug-in 416 has been replaced by a touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in 516.

The touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in 516 includes an original (or underlying) touch-enhanced application that is able to receive and respond to touch input provided by a user as well as mouse input provided by a user. In some

implementations, the original touch-enhanced application is configured to execute application-specific operations in response to OS touch events generated by user touch input and is not configured to separately process digital touch data **114** to trigger execution of application-specific operations in response to user touch input. The application **516** further includes a touch plug-in **518** that enhances the touch capabilities of the original touch-enhanced application.

The touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in **516** may be an application program on any operating system, such as, for example, Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Unix, etc. The application program may be compiled for any processor architectures such as, for example, a 32-bit architecture, a 64-bit architecture, etc. The application program also may run on a Java Virtual Machine (JVM). The application may be written in any programming language, such as, for example, C++, Java, Python, Tcl/Tk, etc.

As noted above, the application **516** includes the touch plug-in **518**. The touch-plug-in **518** is software code that is configured to enhance, modify or fully replace the touch processing abilities of the original touch-enhanced application. The touch plug-in **518** may convert digital touch data **114** into application program interface (API) commands **522** that are recognizable by the underlying touch-enhanced application and that instruct the underlying touch-enhanced application to execute corresponding operations.

The touch plug-in **518** may include a touch controller **520**. The touch controller **520** is configured to generate application emulated mouse events **524** and other application touch events **526** in response to digital touch data **114** and to communicate the events **524** and **526** to the original touch-enhanced application via a system hook **528**.

In this implementation, the original touch-enhanced application is configured to receive mouse events only from the underlying OS. As such, the touch plug-in **518** is required to provide the application emulated mouse events **524** to the original touch-enhanced application as mouse events that are sent through the operating system channels (and the system hook **528**) back to the original touch-enhanced application. Notably, and depending on the filter criteria associated with the application **516** implemented by the system hook **528**, the touch-enhanced application may receive real mouse events **106** generated by the hardware mouse **102**, OS emulated mouse events **122** generated by the OS module **120** based on the digital touch data **114**, and/or application emulated mouse events **524** generated by the touch plug-in **518** based on the digital touch data **114**. The original touch-enhanced application is configured to execute operations in response to mouse events received from the OS and, notably, is typically unable to identify the source that generated the mouse events (i.e., it is typically unable to distinguish between mouse events generated by the mouse **102**, mouse events generated by the OS module **120** and mouse events generated by the touch plug-in **518**). In other implementations, the original touch-enhanced application is able to identify the source of mouse events and is able to distinguish between the mouse events based on their source.

In this implementation, the original touch-enhanced application is configured to receive some or all of other touch events (i.e., touch events that are not mouse emulation events) only from the underlying OS. As such, the touch plug-in **518** is required to provide some or all of the other application touch events **526** to the original touch-enhanced application as touch events that are sent through the operating system channels (and the system hook **528**) back to the original touch-enhanced application. Notably, and depending on the filter criteria associated with the application **516** imple-

mented by the system hook **528**, the touch-enhanced application may receive other OS touch events **124** generated by the OS module **120** based on the digital touch data **114** and/or other application touch events **526** generated by the touch plug-in **518** based on the digital touch data **114**. The original touch-enhanced application is configured to execute operations in response to touch events received from the OS and, notably, is typically unable to identify the source that generated the touch events (i.e., it is typically unable to distinguish between touch events generated by the OS module **120** and touch events generated by the touch plug-in **518**). In other implementations, the original touch-enhanced application is able to identify the source of touch events and is able to distinguish between touch events based on their source.

The touch plug-in **518** may provide location information of the touch-enhanced application (e.g., the location of the window corresponding to the touch-enhanced application) and/or location information for application emulated mouse events (e.g., the location where the emulated left-button single click event took place) or other application touch events (e.g., the location of a pinch or zoom event) to the system hook **528**. The touch plug-in **518** also may provide filtering criteria for the application **516** to the system hook **528**.

The system hook **528** is an implementation example of the system hook **126** that is capable of additionally or alternatively receiving and processing application emulated mouse events **524** and/or other application touch events **526**. The system hook **528** is configured to receive real mouse events **106** from the OS device input **104**, OS emulated mouse events **122** from the OS module **120**, other OS touch events **124** from the OS module **120**, application emulated mouse events **524** from the touch plug-in **518**, and/or other application touch events **526** from the touch plug-in **518**. The system hook **528** may selectively suppress OS touch events (including OS emulated mouse events **122** and/or other OS touch events **124**), real mouse events **106**, and/or application touch events (including application emulated mouse events **524**, and/or other application touch events **526**) to thereby prevent any, one, some or all of these events from being reported to the original touch-enhanced application.

In one implementation example, the system hook **528** receives other OS touch events **124** from the OS module **120** (e.g., a pinch event) and other application touch events **526** from the touch plug-in **518** (e.g., a pinch event) as data messages that include a flag or a code used to distinguish the different touch events based on their source. For example, an other OS touch event **124** may include a code of "500" and an other application touch event **526** may include a code "200." The system hook **528** may use these codes to identify the source of the touch event and then selectively filter out touch events based on the identified source. For example, if the filter criteria for the application **516** indicates that all other OS touch events **124** should be filtered out (i.e., not reported to the application **516**) the system hook **528** may prevent any other touch event (i.e., a touch event that is not an emulated mouse event) received by the system hook **528** that include the code "500" from being reported to the application **516**. The system hook **528** may perform this source filtering in conjunction with the event filtering operations as described previously for system hook **126** based on application location information and event location information.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of an exemplary process for application-specific filtering of OS touch events and application touch events on a touch screen device using a system hook. For convenience, the process **600** shown in FIG. 6 references particular componentry described with respect to FIG. 5. However, similar methodologies may be applied in other

implementations where different componentry is used to implement the process 600, or where the functionality of process 600 is distributed differently among the components shown in FIG. 5.

User touch input generated in response to user interactions with a touch-sensing surface of the touch screen device is received (602). The touch-sensing surface may, for example, be the touch-sensing surface of the hardware touch screen 110.

The user-generated touch input is converted into digital touch data 606 by a touch screen driver of the touch screen device (604). The touch screen driver may, for example, be the touch screen driver 112. The digital touch data 606 may be provided to or otherwise accessed by an OS module and a touch-enhanced application for further processing.

The digital touch data 606 is converted into OS touch events 610 by an OS module (608). The OS module may be, for example, OS module 120. The digital touch data 606 may be processed to generate, for example, emulated mouse events and other OS touch events. For example, the OS module 120 may cast some digital touch data 606 as an emulated left-mouse-down event, an emulated left-mouse-up event, an emulated right-mouse-down event, an emulated right-mouse-up event, an emulated mouse-scroll event, etc. The OS module 120 also may process digital touch data 606 to generate other OS touch events including, for example, gesture events such as tap, press and tap, two finger tap, pinch, expand (i.e., a spreading of fingers apart), etc.

OS touch events may be implemented as OS-specific messages. In some implementations, the OS-specific messages may include location information, for example, coordinate information, for the digital touch data 606. The coordinate information may be matched to a current screen resolution on the hardware touch screen 110. As described in more detail below, the coordinate information may be used by the system hook to filter OS touch events.

The digital touch data 606 is also converted into application touch events 626 by the touch controller 520 of the touch plug-in 518 (622). Application touch events 626 include application emulated mouse events and other application touch events. For example, the touch controller 520 of the touch plug-in 518 may cast some digital touch data 606 as an emulated left-mouse-down event, an emulated left-mouse-up event, an emulated right-mouse-down event, an emulated right-mouse-up event, an emulated mouse-scroll event, etc. As discussed above, an application emulated mouse event is one form of an application touch event. The touch controller 520 of the touch plug-in 518 also may process digital touch data 606 to generate other application touch events including, for example, gesture events such as tap, press and tap, two finger tap, pinch, expand (i.e., a spreading of fingers apart), etc.

In some implementations, the application touch events may include location information, for example, coordinate information, for the digital touch data 606. The coordinate information may be matched to a current screen resolution on the hardware touch screen 110. As described in more detail below, the coordinate information may be used by the system hook to filter application touch events.

The digital touch data 606 is additionally converted into API commands 632 by touch plug-in 518 (624). The API commands 632 are recognizable by, for example, the underlying touch-enhanced application to which the touch plug-in 518 applies.

User mouse input generated in response to user interactions with a hardware mouse of the touch screen device is received (612). The hardware mouse may be, for example, the

hardware mouse 102 and may be separate from but communicatively coupled to the touch screen device via an external port. Alternatively, the hardware mouse and the touch screen device may be a single integral device.

The user-generated mouse input is converted into real mouse events 616 by an OS device input (615). The OS device input may be, for example, the OS device input 104.

The system hook filters one, some, or all of the OS touch events 610, the real mouse events 616 and the application touch events 626 based on application location information and application filter criteria (618). The system hook may be, for example, the system hook 528.

The system hook 528 may receive from the OS or from, for example, the touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in 516 location information 614 specifying the region on the display screen of the touch screen device occupied by the application 516. The region occupied by the application 516 may be, for example, a region of the display screen in which is rendered a window launched by the application 516 with which the user may interact to provide data to and/or receive data from the application 516. The location information 614 may include coordinate information that specifies the location and the size of the display region occupied by the application 516. As stated previously, the coordinate information may be in a two-dimensional format and may, for example, identify the coordinate of one or more corners of the region and may additionally specify the size of the region.

In some implementations, the application 516 may occupy multiple regions of the display screen such as, for example, multiple regions corresponding to multiple different simultaneously displayed windows launched by the application (or otherwise associated with the application) with which the user may interact to provide data to and/or receive data from the application 516. The system hook 528 may use the same filtering criteria for all regions of the application 516. Alternatively, the system hook 528 may use different filtering criteria for each of the multiple different regions of the application 516.

In some implementations, the location information 614 may additionally or alternatively include sub-region location information that identifies a specific portion of a region or regions occupied by an application. For example, the location information 614 may include coordinate information that defines the location and size of certain areas within a main application window, such as, for example, a ribbon window, a window pane or panel, a preview window, etc. The system hook 528 may use the filtering criteria for a given region for all of its sub-regions. Alternatively, the system hook 528 may use different filtering criteria for each sub-region. For example, the system hook 528 may filter out all OS emulated mouse events generated as a result of touch interactions within a window pane of a main application window that displays an interactive three-dimensional globe, while allowing all OS emulated mouse events generated as a result of touch interactions within a ribbon window within the main application window to pass to the application 516 for processing.

The system hook determines whether or not to filter a given OS touch event 610 or application touch event 626 based on the location information associated with the OS touch event 610 or application touch event 626, the location information associated with the application, and the application's filtering criteria. For example, if the location information associated with an application touch event 626 and the application location information indicate a point of contact of the corresponding user-generated touch input within the region occupied by the application 516, then the system hook may apply that

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application's filter criteria to the application touch event **626** to, for example, suppress the application touch event **626**, i.e., not report the event to the application **516** for processing. If the location information associated with an application touch event **626** indicates more than one point of contact, then the system hook may apply the application's filter criteria to the application touch event **626** only if all of the multiple points of contact are within the region occupied by the application or, alternatively, if at least one of the multiple points of contact is within the region occupied by the application. Notably, this same technique for determining which filter criteria should be applied to a given application touch event **626** based on location can be applied to filter criteria that is specific to different regions or sub-regions occupied by a particular application.

As noted above, the system hook may optionally apply application-specific filter criteria that filters out real mouse events **616** as well as OS touch events **610** and/or application touch events **626**. In some implementations, the system hook, however, does not enable applications to filter out real mouse events **616**.

Filtered events **620** is the filtering result produced by the system hook. Since a touch screen device may display more than one application **516** concurrently, the filtered events **620** may include a different set of filtered events for each concurrently displayed application **516**. The filtered events **620** also may include sets of events for particular regions and/or sub-regions of applications. As noted previously, in some implementations, each application **516** may have its own system hook that produces its own set of filtered events **620**. Notably, a touch screen device may display many different types of touch-enhanced applications **116** concurrently, including a mouse-only application with touch plug-in **416** and a touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in **516**. A single system hook may be used to filter out events for all or a subset of the displayed applications. Alternatively, each application may have its own system hook dedicated to filtering out events specific to that application.

The application receives and processes the filtered events **620** and the API commands (**621**). In some implementations, the application may receive a different set of filtered events for each of multiple different regions (e.g., each of the application's different windows) occupied by the application and/or for each of multiple different sub-regions (e.g., window panes) occupied by the application. Each set of filtered events may trigger a separate and distinct process specific to that region (e.g., window) or sub-region (e.g., window pane).

FIG. 7A illustrates an exemplary graphical user interface (GUI) **700** of a touch screen device that is configured to selectively filter out touch events using a system hook. The GUI **700** includes a graphical desktop **702** in which is displayed a graphical window **704** of a touch-enhanced application. The graphical window **704** includes a window pane **706** in which is displayed a graphical map **708** and a snapshot button **710**.

In one example, the graphical window **704** is the user interface of the mouse-only application with touch plug-in **416**. The original mouse-only application is configured to enable a user to pan, zoom-in, and zoom-out of the map **708** displayed within the window pane **706** in response to mouse events received from the operating system. In this example, the operating system is touch-enhanced to provide OS emulated mouse events in addition to real mouse events. The original mouse-only application, therefore, is able to receive mouse events generated by the hardware mouse **102** and the OS module **120** and is typically unable to discern whether a given mouse event originated from the OS device input **104** in response to user interactions with a hardware mouse **102** or

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instead originated from the OS module **120** in response to user interactions with a hardware touch screen **110**. Through use of the touch plug-in **418**, the original mouse-only application is enhanced to receive emulated mouse events and API commands from the touch plug-in **418**. The touch plug-in **418**, when used in combination with a system hook, is able to provide more flexible touch-based inputs to the original mouse-only application than what was otherwise available through use of only the touch-enhanced OS.

An example of such an enhancement is now described with reference to FIG. 7B, which depicts the location of three touch points **712**, **714** and **716** on the GUI **700**. The touch points **712** and **714** may be, for example, the touch locations where a user placed a first and a second finger, respectively, of his left hand on the touch-sensitive surface of the hardware touch screen **110**. The touch point **716** may be, for example, the location where the user placed a finger of his right hand on the touch-sensitive surface of the hardware touch screen **110**. In this example, the user is assumed to have placed the touch point **712**, **714** and **716** sequentially and in that order on the touch-sensitive surface of the touch screen **110** such that, at the end of the sequential placement, all three touch points **712**, **714** and **716** are concurrently positioned on the touch screen **110** (i.e., all three fingers are concurrently contacting the touch-sensitive surface at the corresponding touch point locations).

To illustrate the enhanced touch capabilities achieved through use of the touch plug-in **418** and the system hook, the operation of the original mouse-only application without the system hook and touch plug-in is first described. The OS is able to generate emulated mouse events based on touch data but does so in a rigid fashion that is application agnostic (i.e., that does not vary from application to application). In this example, the OS is configured to generate a mouse-drag event when it detects a touch point contacting and then moving while maintaining contact with the touch screen. Thus, when the touch point **712** is placed on the touch screen and then moved, the OS, through use of the OS module **120**, generates an OS emulated mouse-drag event and sends it to the mouse-only application. The mouse-only application may receive the mouse-drag event and may pan the map **708** in response to the event.

Notably, due to the limited touch processing capabilities of the OS in this example, the OS completely ignores the subsequently placed touch points **714** and **716**. The user placed the touch point **716** onto the snapshot button **710** to take a digital snapshot (e.g., generate a jpeg file of the displayed map) of the map currently presented in the window pane **706**. Unfortunately, because of the limited OS touch capabilities, this touch point **716** was completely ignored by the application and no snapshot was taken.

By using a system hook **426** and a touch plug-in **418**, the mouse-only application may be enhanced to provide much greater flexibility in how it responds to touch. In this example, the touch plug-in **418** is configured to provide filter criteria to the system hook **426** that causes all OS emulated mouse events to be suppressed (i.e., not reported to the mouse-only application) and to enable application emulated mouse events to be reported. Thus, when a user places the first touch point **712** on the touch screen and begins to move it, the system hook **426** prevents the reporting of the OS emulated mouse drag event to the mouse-only application and, therefore, prevents the mouse-only application from panning the map in response to the movement of the first touch point **712**.

Unlike the OS, the touch plug-in **418** is capable of processing the digital touch data to generate touch events or API commands for all three touch points. The touch plug-in **418**

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detects the first touch point **712** and the second touch point **714** and subsequent movement of those two touch points. Depending on how the touch points **712** and **714** move, the touch plug-in **418** may issue an API command to the mouse-only application instructing the mouse-only application to perform a corresponding map navigation operation on the displayed map **708**, such as, for example, a pan, a zoom-in, or a zoom-out operation. For example, the touch plug-in **418** may generate and send an API command to the mouse-only application to cause the mouse-only application to execute a zoom-in operation on the map **708** in response to the user spreading out his fingers or to execute a zoom-out operation on the map **708** in response to the user pinching his fingers. In this manner, the touch plug-in **418** is able to enhance the mouse-only application to allow more complex touch-based interactions with the map **708** than what was possible through use of only the touch-enhanced OS.

Additionally, the touch plug-in **418** detects the placement of the third touch point **716** in a location of the graphical snapshot button **710**. Because the touch plug-in **418** is programmed to enable mouse emulation for touch points located near or on the graphical snapshot button **710**, the touch plug-in **418** generates a mouse left-button hold event in response to detecting placement of the third touch point **716**. The touch plug-in **418** sends the left mouse button hold event to the mouse-only application through the system hook **426** (which does not filter out the event) and the mouse-only application responds to the event by taking a snapshot of the map **708**. As such, the touch plug-in **418** allows a user to dynamically zoom in or out of map **708** by pinching or expanding two fingers of a first hand while using a finger of a second hand to take a snapshot of the map **708** without ever having to lift the two fingers of the first hand.

The touch input handling provided by the touch plug-in **418** is much more flexible than that offered by the OS and is achieved by not only generation of corresponding API commands and application touch events (in this example, application emulated mouse events) but also by the system hook **426** that filters out the OS touch events that otherwise would conflict with the application touch events. Indeed, if the system hook **426** had not filtered out the OS emulated mouse drag event, the mouse-only application may, for example, have concurrently performed a map pan operation in response to the OS emulated mouse drag event based on the movement of touch point **712** and a zoom-in or zoom-out operation in response to the API commands generated by the touch plug-in **418** based on the movement of both of the touch points **712** and **714**. This combination of a pan and a zoom-in/zoom-out operation in response to the movement of the touch points **712** and **714** is undesirable as it makes map navigation difficult and visually confusing.

In another example, the graphical window **704** is the user interface of the touch-enhanced application with touch plug-in **516**. The original touch-enhanced application is configured to enable a user to pan, zoom-in, and zoom-out of the map **708** displayed within the window pane **706** in response to mouse events, including real mouse events and OS emulated mouse events, received from the OS and also in response to other OS touch events received from the OS. In this example, the OS is touch-enhanced to provide both OS emulated mouse events and other OS touch events. The other OS touch events may include, for example, a pinch event, which corresponds to two touch points that are concurrently in contact with the touch screen being moved closer together, and a spread event, which corresponds to two touch points that are concurrently in contact with the touch screen being moved farther apart. The OS, however, is unable to handle more than two touch

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points concurrently placed on the touch screen. In other words, the OS ignores placement and movement of any touch point placed on the touch screen after the placement of the first two touch points while the first two touch points remain concurrently in contact with the touch screen.

The original touch-enhanced application, therefore, is able to receive mouse events generated by the hardware mouse **102** and the OS module **120** and is typically unable to discern whether a given mouse event originated from the OS device input **104** in response to user interactions with a hardware mouse **102** or instead originated from the OS module **120** in response to user interactions with a hardware touch screen **110**. Moreover, the original touch-enhanced application is able to receive two touch point OS touch events (e.g., an OS touch event corresponding to a two touch point gesture such as, for example, a pinch event) generated by the OS module **120** in response to user interactions with the hardware touch screen **110**. Through use of the touch plug-in **518**, the original touch-enhanced application is enhanced to receive application emulated mouse events and other application touch events, and to receive API commands from the touch plug-in **518**. The touch plug-in **518**, when used in combination with the system hook **528**, allows the application to receive and process more complex or sophisticated touch-based inputs than that supported by the original touch-enhanced application.

To illustrate the enhanced touch capabilities achieved through use of the touch plug-in **518** and the system hook **528**, the operation of the original touch-enhanced application without the system hook and touch plug-in is first described. The OS is able to generate emulated mouse events and two touch point OS touch events based on touch data but does so in a rigid fashion that is application agnostic (i.e., that does not vary from application to application). In this example, the OS is configured to generate a mouse-drag event when it detects a touch point contacting and then moving while maintaining contact with the touch screen and is configured to instead generate a pinch event or a spread event when it detects two touch points concurrently contacting and then moving closer together or farther apart from each other, respectively. Thus, when the touch point **712** is placed on the touch screen and then moved, the OS, through use of the OS module **120**, generates an OS emulated mouse-drag event and sends it to the touch-enhanced application. The touch-enhanced application may receive the OS mouse-drag event and may pan the map **708** in response to the event.

However, when the touch point **714** is subsequently placed on the map **708** and moved closer to touch point **712** (e.g., the second finger of the user's first hand is placed on the screen and then moved closer to the first finger, thereby pinching the fingers), the OS emulated mouse-drag event is replaced with an OS pinch event that is sent to the original touch-enhanced application. The original touch-enhanced application may receive the OS pinch event and may perform a zoom-out operation on the map **708** in response to the event.

Notably, due to the limited touch processing capabilities of the OS in this example, the OS completely ignores the subsequently placed third touch point **716**. The user placed the touch point **716** onto the snapshot button **710** to take a digital snapshot (e.g., generate a jpeg file of the displayed map) of the map currently presented in the window pane **706**. Unfortunately, because of the limited OS touch capabilities, this touch point **716** was completely ignored by the original touch-enhanced application and no snapshot was taken.

By using a system hook **528** and a touch plug-in **518**, the touch processing capabilities of the touch-enhanced application may be improved to provide much greater flexibility in

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how it responds to touch. In this example, the touch plug-in **518** is configured to provide filter criteria to the system hook **528** that causes all OS emulated mouse events and other OS touch events to be suppressed (i.e., not reported to the touch-enhanced application) and to enable application emulated mouse events and other application touch events to be reported. Thus, when a user places the first touch point **712** on the touch screen and begins to move it, the system hook **528** prevents the reporting of the OS emulated mouse drag event to the touch-enhanced application and, therefore, prevents the touch-enhanced application from panning the map in response to the movement of the first touch point **712**. Additionally, when the user places the second touch point **714** (while the first touch point **712** remains in contact with the touch screen), the system hook **528** prevents the reporting of the OS pinch event to the touch-enhanced application and, therefore, prevents the touch-enhanced application from performing a zooming-out operation on the map **708**.

Unlike the OS, the touch plug-in **518** is capable of processing the digital touch data to generate touch events or API commands for all three touch points. The touch plug-in **518** detects the first touch point **712** and the second touch point **714** and subsequent movement of those two touch points. In this example and unlike the former example described above with respect to the mouse-only application, the touch-enhanced application does not support API commands to trigger map navigation operations for map **708**, such as a map zoom-in, a map zoom-out or a map pan. Instead, in this example, the touch-enhanced application only allows these operations to be triggered in response to receipt of corresponding two finger touch events from the OS. Therefore, depending on how the touch points **712** and **714** move, the touch plug-in **518** may issue a two-finger touch event, such as a pinch event, a spread event, or a drag event, to the touch-enhanced application over operating system channels through the system hook **528** (which does not filter out these other application touch events). The original touch-enhanced application may execute a corresponding map navigation operation in response to the touch plug-in event received from the operating system. The original touch-enhanced application, is typically unable to identify the source that generated the two-finger touch events (i.e., it is typically unable to distinguish between touch events generated by the OS module **120** and touch events generated by the touch plug-in **518**). For example, the touch plug-in **518** may generate and send a spread event to the original touch-enhanced application to cause the original touch-enhanced application to execute a zoom-in operation on the map **708** in response to the user spreading out his fingers or may generate and send a pinch event to cause the original touch-enhanced application to execute a zoom-out operation on the map **708** in response to the user pinching his fingers. In this manner, the touch plug-in **518** is able to enhance the original touch-enhanced application to allow more complex touch-based interactions with the map **708** than what was possible through use of only the touch-enhanced OS.

Additionally, the touch plug-in **518** detects the placement of the third touch point **716** in a location of the graphical snapshot button **710**. Because the touch plug-in **518** is programmed to enable mouse emulation for touch points located near or on the graphical snapshot button **710**, the touch plug-in **518** generates a mouse left-button hold event in response to detecting placement of the third touch point **716**. The touch plug-in **518** sends the left mouse button hold event to the touch-enhanced application through the system hook **528** (which does not filter out the event) and the touch-enhanced application responds to the event by taking a snapshot of the

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map **708**. As such, the touch plug-in **518** allows a user to dynamically zoom in or out of map **708** by pinching or expanding two fingers of a first hand while using a finger of a second hand to take a snapshot of the map **708** without ever having to lift the two fingers of the first hand. The touch input handling provided by the touch plug-in **518** is much more flexible than that offered by the OS and is achieved by not only generation of corresponding API commands and application touch events (in this example, application emulated mouse events and other touch events) but also by the system hook **528** that filters out the OS touch events that otherwise may conflict with the application touch events.

The described systems, methods, and techniques may be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, computer hardware, firmware, software, or in combinations of these elements. Apparatuses embodying these techniques may include appropriate input and output devices, a computer processor, and a tangible computer-readable storage medium on which a computer program or other computer-readable instructions are stored for execution by one or more processing devices (e.g., a programmable processor).

A process implementing these techniques may be performed by a programmable processor executing a program of instructions to perform desired functions by operating on input data and generating appropriate output. The techniques may be implemented in one or more computer programs that are executable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a data storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device. Each computer program may be implemented in a high-level procedural or object-oriented programming language, or in assembly or machine language if desired; and in any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language.

Suitable processors include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory and/or a random access memory. Storage devices suitable for storing computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, such as Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EPROM), Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory (EEPROM), and flash memory devices; magnetic disks such as internal hard disks and removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and Compact Disc Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM). Any of the foregoing may be supplemented by, or incorporated in, specially-designed application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs).

The touch screen device described herein may be a multi-touch display device. Multi-touch display devices encompass a wide variety of display devices and associated systems and components. Some multi-touch display devices require physical contact with a surface of the multi-touch display device in order to receive input. For example, such a multi-touch display device may receive input by detecting contact with a surface of the multi-touch display device by a finger, a stylus, some other mechanical, electro-mechanical, or magnetic input mechanism and/or any combination of multiple such input mechanisms at the same time. Furthermore, some such multi-touch display devices may be configured such that the surface that receives input may appear to be the same surface on which the multi-touch display device displays objects (whether or not the surface that receives input actually is the same surface as the surface on which the multi-touch display device displays objects). Alternatively, other such

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multi-touch display devices may receive input on a surface that is clearly remote and distinct from the surface on which the multi-touch display device displays objects. One example of such a multi-touch display system is a multi-point input capable standalone tablet that provides input to a remote and distinct display.

Other multi-touch display devices do not require physical contact with the surface of the multi-touch display device in order to receive input. For example, such multi-touch display devices may receive input by detecting the presence of a finger, a stylus, some other mechanical, electro-mechanical, or magnetic input mechanism and/or any combination of multiple such input mechanisms in the vicinity of the surface of the multi-touch display device even when such input mechanisms are not in physical contact with the surface of the multi-touch display device.

Furthermore, the various different transformations and annotations disclosed herein may be implemented by any other type of multi-point computing system configured to receive multiple inputs at the same, including, for example, systems configured to receive concurrent input from multiple pointing devices (e.g., multiple computer mice) and/or concurrent input from one or more pointing devices and another input device (e.g., a keyboard). Moreover, some of the various different transformations and annotations disclosed herein are not limited to implementation on a multi-touch device and thus may be implemented on a single-point device.

Various modifications may be made. For example, useful results still may be achieved if steps of the disclosed techniques are performed in a different order. Moreover, useful results may be achieved by combining various steps or components of the various disclosed techniques in a different manner and/or if components of the disclosed systems are combined in a different manner and/or replaced or supplemented by other components.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method, comprising:
 - rendering, on a display screen of a touch screen device, a graphical user interface of an application, the display screen having a display area for rendering images and the graphical user interface of the application being rendered in a portion of the display area;
 - generating digital touch data in response to user interactions with a touch-sensitive surface of the touch screen device;
 - converting, using a module of an operating system (OS) residing on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into OS touch events;
 - converting, using a module of a touch plug-in of an application on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into application touch events;
 - receiving, at a system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events;
 - receiving, at the system hook, application location information that identifies the portion of the display area of the touch screen device in which the graphical user interface of the application is being rendered;
 - filtering, by the system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events based on the application location information; and
 - providing, by the system hook, the filtered OS touch events and application touch events to the application.
2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein generating the digital touch data comprises:
 - receiving touch input from a touch screen of the touch screen device; and

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converting the touch input into digital touch data using a touch screen driver.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the touch input is input generated by one or more user fingers contacting the touch screen of the touch screen device.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein the touch input comprises one of: a one finger tap, a one finger swipe, a one finger flick, a one finger double tap, or combinations thereof.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein the touch screen device is a multi-touch device and the touch input comprises one of: a multiple finger tap, a multiple finger swipe, a multiple-finger press-and-hold, a multiple-finger flick, a multiple-finger pinch, a multiple-finger expansion, a multiple-finger press-and-tap, or combinations thereof.

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the touch screen driver is further configured to provide the digital touch data to the application.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface of the application comprises a window rendered in the portion of the display area and the application location information identifies a location and a size of the displayed window.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

- receiving, at the system hook, real mouse events from a device input,
- wherein the device input is in communication with a peripheral mouse,
- wherein the peripheral mouse is communicatively coupled to the touch screen device, and
- wherein user-generated mouse input on the peripheral mouse is converted into real mouse events by the device input.

9. The computer-implemented method of claim 8, further comprising passing, by the system hook, the real mouse events to the application.

10. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein filtering, by the system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events is accomplished by:

- accessing location information for a particular OS touch event and location information for a particular application touch event, the location information for the particular OS touch event indicating a location of touch input on the display area of the touch screen device that triggered the particular OS touch event, the location information for the particular application touch event indicating a location of touch input on the display area of the touch screen device that triggered the particular application touch event;
- determining, based on the location information for the particular OS touch event and the application location information, to apply first application-specific filtering criteria to the particular OS touch event;
- determining, based on the location information for the particular application touch event and the application location information, to apply second application-specific filtering criteria to the particular application touch event; and
- applying the first application-specific filtering criteria to the particular OS touch event and applying the second application-specific filtering criteria to the particular application touch event.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein applying the first application-specific filtering criteria to the particular OS touch event comprises filtering out the particular OS touch event to cause the particular OS touch

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event to not be reported to the application; and wherein applying the second application-specific filtering criteria to the particular application touch event comprises filtering out the particular application touch event to cause the particular application touch event to not be reported to the application.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein determining to apply the first application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that a starting location of the touch input that triggered the particular OS touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application; and wherein determining to apply the second application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that a starting location of the touch input that triggered the particular application touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein determining to apply the first application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that an ending location of the touch input that triggered the particular OS touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application; and wherein determining to apply the first application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that an ending location of the touch input that triggered the particular application touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 10, wherein determining to apply the first application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that a starting and an ending location of the touch input that triggered the particular OS touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application; and

wherein determining to apply the second application-specific filtering criteria comprises determining that a starting and an ending location of the touch input that triggered the particular application touch event is located inside the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the OS touch events comprise OS emulated mouse events.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the application touch events comprise application emulated mouse events.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the application touch events are generated by the module of the touch plug-in to the application on the touch screen device, and wherein the module comprises one of: a mouse controller, or a touch controller.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the OS touch events and the application touch events comprise a data message that include a flag or a code to distinguish the OS touch events and the application touch events based on their source.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the touch screen device comprises a multi-touch capacitive touch screen device.

20. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the application location information comprises at least one of: coordinate information associated with a window of the application, coordinate information associated with a window pane of the application, size information asso-

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ciated with a window of the application, size information associated with a window pane of the application, or combinations thereof.

21. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the application location information designates a location at a pixel level.

22. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising generating the application location information when the application is launched on the touch screen device and updating the application location information as the portion of the display area in which is rendered the graphical user interface of the application changes during user interaction with the application.

23. A touch screen device comprising:

a touch screen including:

a display screen having a display area for rendering images, and

a touch-sensitive surface positioned over the display screen; and

a computer processor configured to:

enable rendering of a graphical user interface of an application in a portion of the display area of the display screen;

generate digital touch data in response to user interactions with the touch-sensitive surface;

convert, using a module of an operating system (OS) residing on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into OS touch events;

convert, using a module of a touch plug-in of the application on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into application touch events;

receive, at a system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events;

receive, at the system hook, application location information that identifies the portion of the display area of the display screen in which the graphical user interface of the application is being rendered;

filter, by the system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events based on the application location information; and

provide, by the system hook, the filtered OS touch events and the application touch events to the application.

24. A non-volatile computer-readable storage device storing software instructions that, when executed by a computer processor of a touch screen device, cause the computer processor to:

render, on a display screen of the touch screen device, a graphical user interface of an application, the display screen having a display area for rendering images and the graphical user interface of the application being rendered in a portion of the display area;

generate digital touch data in response to user interactions with the touch-sensitive surface of the touch screen device;

convert, using a module of an operating system (OS) residing on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into OS touch events;

convert, using a module of a touch plug-in of the application on the touch screen device, the digital touch data into application touch events;

receive, at a system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events;

receive, at the system hook, application location information that identifies the portion of the display area of the touch screen device in which the graphical user interface of the application is being rendered;

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filter, by the system hook, the OS touch events and the application touch events based on the application location information; and

provide, by the system hook, the filtered OS touch events and the application touch events to the application.

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